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DER GENERALBASS.

Eine Anleitung für die Ausführung der Continuo-Stimmen in den Werken der alten Meister

von

S. JADASSOHN.

THOROUGHBASS.

Instruction leading to the performance of the Continuo-Parts in the works of the old masters

by

S. JADASSOHN.

LA BASSE CONTINUE.

Une instruction pour ll'éxécution |des |parties chiffrées dans les chefs-d'oeuvres des anciens maîtres

par

S. JADASSOHN.



Leipzig,

Druck und Verlag von Breitkopf & Härtel.
1901.

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNDER PROVO, UTAH

EINLEITUNG.

Die tiefste Stimme eines Tonsatzes, über oder unter welcher Ziffern und Zeichen derart angemerkt sind, dass daraus der über der Note zu errichtende Akkord klar ersichtlich ist, wird die Generalbass-Stimme genannt.

Der Schüler lernt die Generalbass-Bezifferung aus den Aufgaben kennen, die er beim Unterricht in der Harmonielehre schriftlich auszuarbeiten hat.

Generalbass-Spielen nennt man die Fertigkeit nach einer bezifferten Stimme die bezeichneten Akkorde, regelrecht verbunden, auf dem Klavier oder der Orgel (Harmonium) zu spielen.

Die Anleitung, welche ich gebe, beginnt mit den einfachsten und leichtesten Übungen; der Schüler wird dadurch nach und nach die nötige Sicherheit und Schlagfertigkeit zum Vomblattspielen schwieriger und komplizierterer Aufgaben gewinnen.

Der grosse Nutzen der Übung des Generalbass-Spielens ist leicht ersichtlich. Die schriftlichen Ausarbeitungen der Harmonie-Aufgaben werden von vielen Schülern, anfangs zumal, oft nur rein mechanisch angefertigt; die Ziffern werden in Noten umgewandelt. Nicht immer hat der Schüler die volle und richtige Klangvorstellung von dem, was er niedergeschrieben hat. Ebenso werden auch die kontrapunktischen Aufgaben oft nur streng nach den Regeln des Satzes ohne besondere Rücksichtsnahme auf die Klangwirkung und auf die praktische Ausführbarkeit beim Klavier- oder Orgel-Spiel schriftlich ausgearbeitet.

Nachdem der Schüler eine genügende Kenntnis des reinen Satzes erlangt hat, soll der schriftlichen Ausarbeitung von Aufgaben das Spielen von bezifferten Bässen folgen. Durch den lebendigen Klang wird überdies dem Schüler das Wesen der Akkorde, die Art ihrer mannigfachen Verbindungen, sowie eine natürliche gute Stimmführung am Besten klar werden; auch wird er durch das Spielen von Generalbass-Stimmen für die Übungen im Präludieren und Modulieren vorbereitet.

Ältere Kompositionen besitzen häufig statt einer ausgeführten Begleitung der Prinzipalstimme nur eine bezifferte Bassstimme, in welcher nicht mehr als die Andeutung für die Harmonie des Satzes enthalten ist. Nach dieser Stimme musste die Begleitung von einem geübten Spieler (Cembalist) meist prima vista improvisiert werden.

Aber auch bei den ausgeführten Gesangwerken, gleichviel ob diese mit Instrumental-Begleitung ausgestattet oder für Chor allein geschrieben waren, wie auch bei Kompositionen für Orchester, war der Partitur meistens eine bezifferte tiefste Stimme beigefügt. Diese als »Continuo« bezeichnete, durch das ganze Werk gehende Stimme ermöglichte selbst bei den mannigfachen kontrapunktischen Kombinationen der darüberliegenden Stimmen einen schnellen, sicheren Einblick in die eigentliche reine Harmonie des Satzes. Sowohl beim Einstudieren wie auch bei den Aufführungen hatte die Continuostimme beim Begleiten von Recitativen, Arien und Chören stets mitzuwirken.

Wir besitzen heutzutage meistenteils treffliche Klavier-Auszüge und sorgfältig gearbeitete Orgelstimmen zu den Werken der alten wie der zeitgenössischen Meister. Wenn nun auch darum der Chordirigent, der Organist oder der begleitende Pianist das Generalbass-Spielen nicht mehr so unumgänglich nötig bedarf wie früher der Cembalist und der Kapellmeister, so ist die Übung dieser Fertigkeit dennoch unerlässlich und jedem strebsamen Kunstjünger dringend anzuempfehlen. Beim Vomblattspielen einer Generalbass-Stimme kann der Schüler am Besten darthun, ob er sich die Kenntnis der Harmonie und des reinen Satzes gründlich zueigen gemacht hat, und inwieweit er im Stande ist, das beim Unterrichte in der Theorie Gelernte in der Praxis schnell und sicher zu bethätigen und es mit künstlerischem Geschmack und Feinsinn anzuwenden.

Für die Ausführung der stufenweise geordneten Aufgaben habe ich stets Beispiele vorangesetzt. Der Autodidakt (kann daraus ersehen, wie er selbst die nachfolgenden Aufgaben in der einen oder andern Weise, oder mehrfach verschieden zu spielen habe. Um dem Anfänger das Lesen der Beispiele zu erleichtern, sind diese doppelt, sowohl in den alten wie in den neuen Schlüsseln notiert. Durch Vergleichung der beiden Notierungen wird der mit den alten Schlüsseln oft wenig oder nicht genügend vertraute Schüler diese nach und nach ebenso geläufig lesen lernen wie die ihm zuvor bekannten neuen Schlüssel. Dies wird zugleich die notwendige Vorbereitung für das Studium der Orchester-Partituren sein.

Leipzig, im December 4900.

Dr. S. Jadassohn.

INTRODUCTION.

Thorough-bass (Figured bass, Germ. Generalbass) is an instrumental bass-part, accompanied by figures and signs, indicating the proper harmony.

It is taken for granted, that the pupil has learned these figures and signs before preceding very far in the writing of his harmony exercises.

The object, then, of this course, is to enable a pupil to play on the piano or organ the proper harmonies indicated by a figured bass with good taste. The pupil having sufficient practice in pure harmonic writing may begin with the easiest exercises and proceed step by step, until he is able to play the more difficult and complicated figured basses at first sight.

Many years experience in teaching has shown me the necessity of such a work as this. Simply writing the exercises in Harmony and Counterpoint is not sufficient, for with most pupils it is a mere mechanical process; they write the notes indicated after the rules, but have not a clear conception of the sound.

The nature of the chords and their various connections in a good leading of the voices comes clearest to a pupil, through the actual sounding and after following this course a few months, a figured bass will come to mean more to him, than so many signs and symbols. As a preparation for preluding, interluding, modulating etc. nothing could be of more help to a pupil than practise in playing figured basses.

Many of the older compositions have, instead of an accompaniment, only a figured and somtimes not even a figured bass, from which the accompanist must play; perhaps, at first sight.

Thoroughbass parts are also given to some compositions for choruses and orchestra written in full score; this bass part, called »Continuo« shows the director the proper harmony and is used at rehearsals and at the performances of such works.

The masterworks of to-day all have written accompaniments, so the accompanist need not necessarily be able to play from a thoroughbass part as a leader or "Cembaliste" was compelled to do not many years ago. Neverthless I find it of infinite value as a supplement in studying harmony and counterpoint. The pupil can only completely prove his theoretical knowledge, when he can play a figured bass at first sight. To be able to write the harmonies, designated by a figured bass, shows that the pupil understands in part, but to be able to write and also to play, at first sight, the proper chords in good taste shows that he has a complete comprehension of the subject.

I give for every exercise examples for the instruction of pupils working without a teacher. All examples are written in both, the new and old clefs; the pupil will soon learn to read in these clefs by comparing both notations this will be a necessary preparation for the study of full scores.

Leipzig, December 1900.

Dr. S. Jadassohn.

INTRODUCTION.

La partie la plus basse d'une œuvre musicale, au dessus ou au dessous de laquelle se trouvent chiffres et signes de telle façon qu'on puisse reconnaître l'harmonie indiquée par la basse chiffrée, se nomme »basse continue«.

L'élève a déjà appris la signification des basses chiffrées en travaillant par écrit les devoirs d'un Traitè d'harmonie. Il s'agit maintenant d'arriver à *jouer* une partie continue d'après les indications de la basse chiffrée soit au piano, soit à l'orgue.

L'instruction donnée dans ce livre commence par les exercices les plus simples et les plus faciles. En suivant le cours de cet ouvrage l'élève obtiendra peu à peu la sureté et la rapidité de réflexion necessaire à la réalisation de basses chiffrées à première vue.

L'utilité du jeu pratique de basses chiffrées est incontestable. Il y a pas mal d'élèves qui travaillent d'après les règles données par écrit les devoirs d'un traitè d'harmonie d'une manière tout à fait mécanique. On se contente de traduire les chiffres en notes, sans se soucier de l'effet musical, sans avoir même toujours une idée nette du véritable son de ce qu'on a écrit et sans prendre égard à l'exécution instrumentale sur l'orgue ou au piano.

Mais il est absolument necessaire, que l'élêve, après avoir travaillé par écrit, apprenne à *jouer* des basses chiffrees. Le son vivant fera le mieux rendre compte de la nature des accords et de la manière de les enchaîner différemment dans un stile pur. En jouant des basses chiffrées l'élève, peut déjà en outre se préparer à l'art de préluder et de moduler.

Les compositions d'anciens Maîtres ne contiennent souvent qu'une basse chiffrée au dessous de la partie principale au lieu d'un accompagnement complet. Cette partie de basse, ne fournissant guère qu'une indication de l'harmonie, était destinée à être exécutée d'une manière correcte et s'appropiant au caractère de la pièce, par un musicien consommé »le cymbaliste«. Toutes les œuvres vocales à cappella ou avec accompagnement d'orchestre ainsi que celles pour orchestre seul possédaient une basse chiffrée, nommée »Continuo«, qui faisait réconnaître à l'instant à travers l'œuvre entière l'harmonie, contenue dans les parties supérieures. On se servait de la partie »Continuo« aussi bien à la répétition qu'à l'exécution publique pour accompagner les récitatifs, pour compléter l'accompagnement des airs et des chœurs et pour soutenir toute la piéce par une partie d'orgue.

Nous possédons aujourd'hui des arrangements pour piano d'après les partitions d'orchestre, ainsi que des parties d'orgue soigneusement travaillés par un Maître d'après la basse continue. On pourrait croire par là, que la capacité de jouer une basse chiffrée ne serait plus necessaire à l'organiste ou au chef d'orchestre de nos jours, qu'on n'aurait plus besoin de l'adresse d'un »Cembaliste«. La capacité de jouer une basse chiffrée à première vue est néanmoins indispensable au musicien, digne de ce nom. En apprenant à jouer une basse continue, il pourra prouver, qu'il a étudié la théorie de la musique à fond et qu'il sait la mettre en pratique. Pour l'instruction de l'élève j'ai donné des exemples, qui précédent toujours les devoirs. L'autodidacte peut y voir, comment il pourrait jouer les devoirs de différentes manières. Les exemples sont notées en double dans les clefs de sol et fa et d'ut et fa. En comparant l'élève apprendra bientôt à lire couramment toutes les clefs, et ce sera en même temps une bonne préparation à l'étude de partitions d'orchestre.

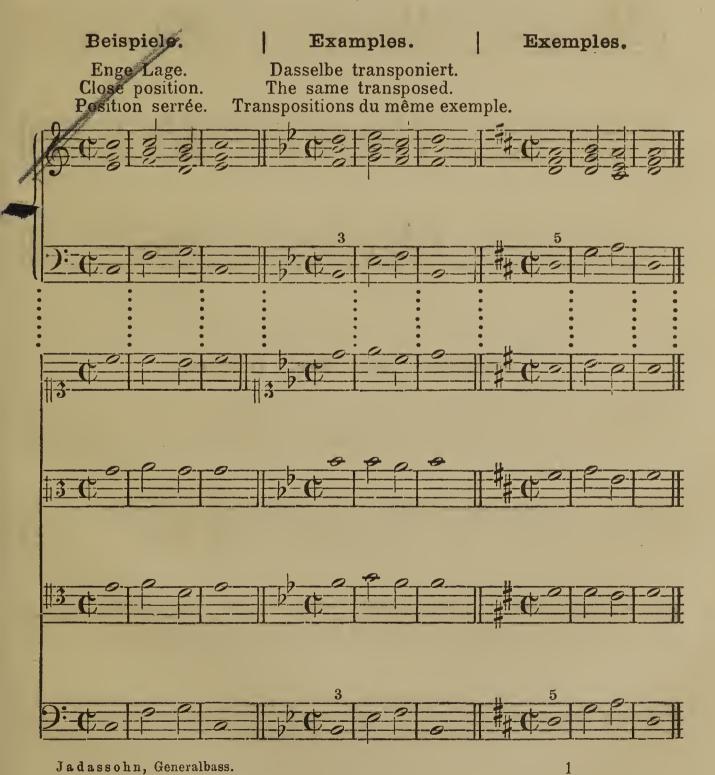
Leipzig, Decembre 4900.

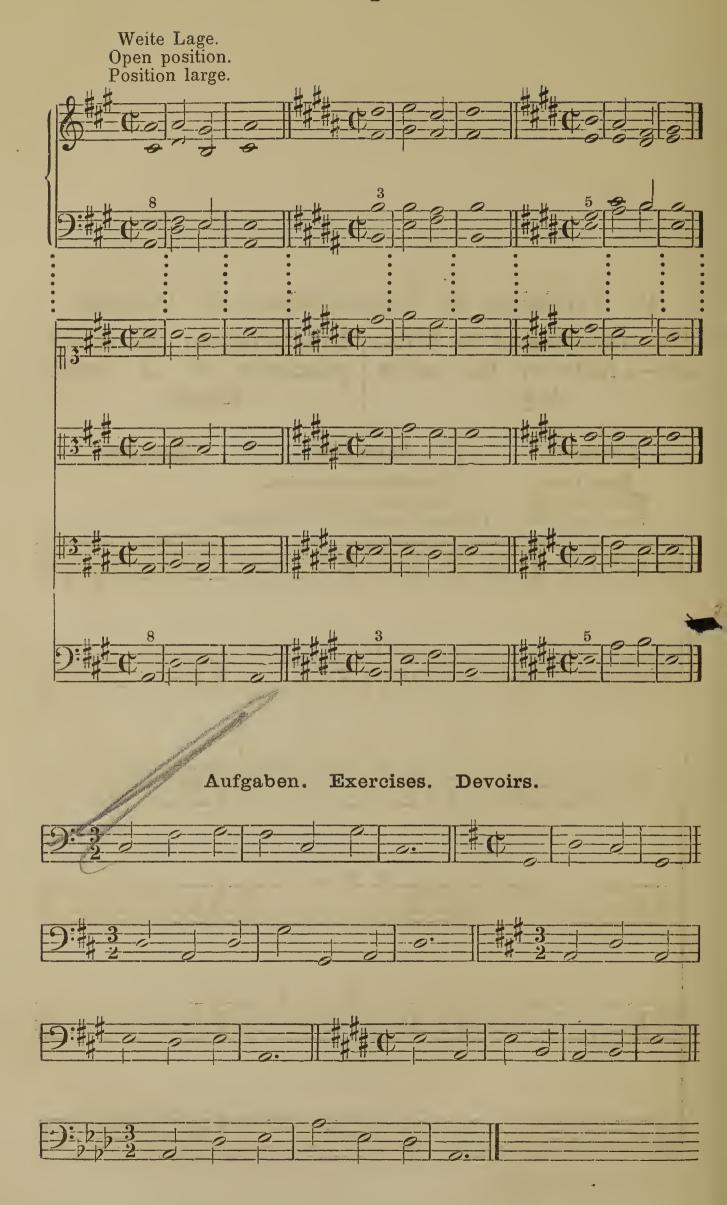
Dr. S. Jadassohn.

Die Verbindung der Hauptdreiklänge der Durtonart.

The connection of the Prim- | L'enchaînement des accords ary-Triads of the major key.

principaux de la gamme majeure.

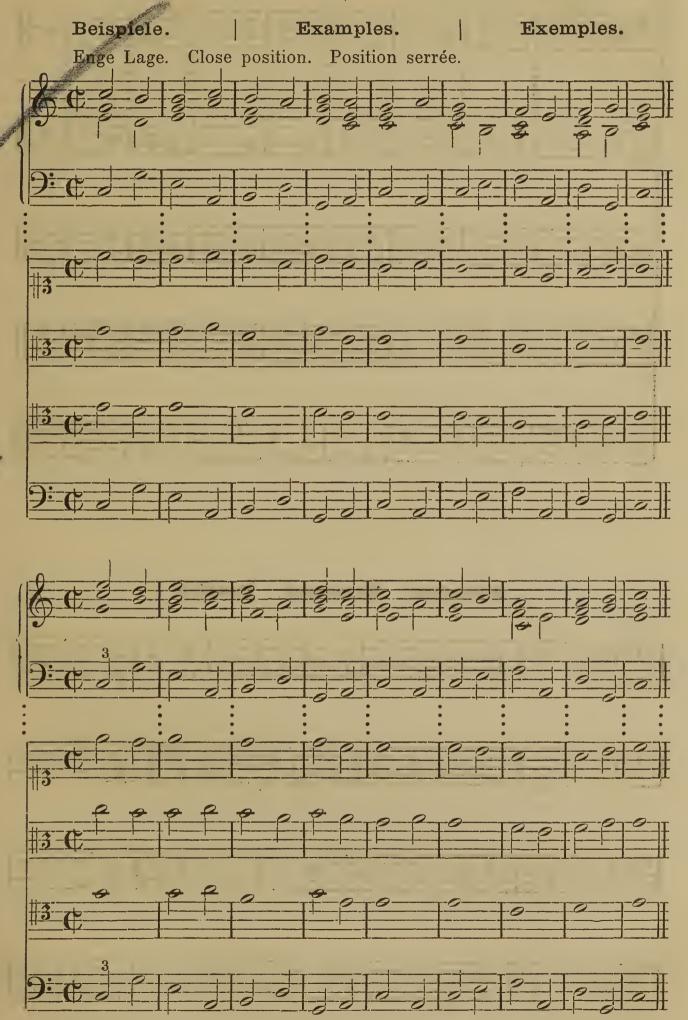


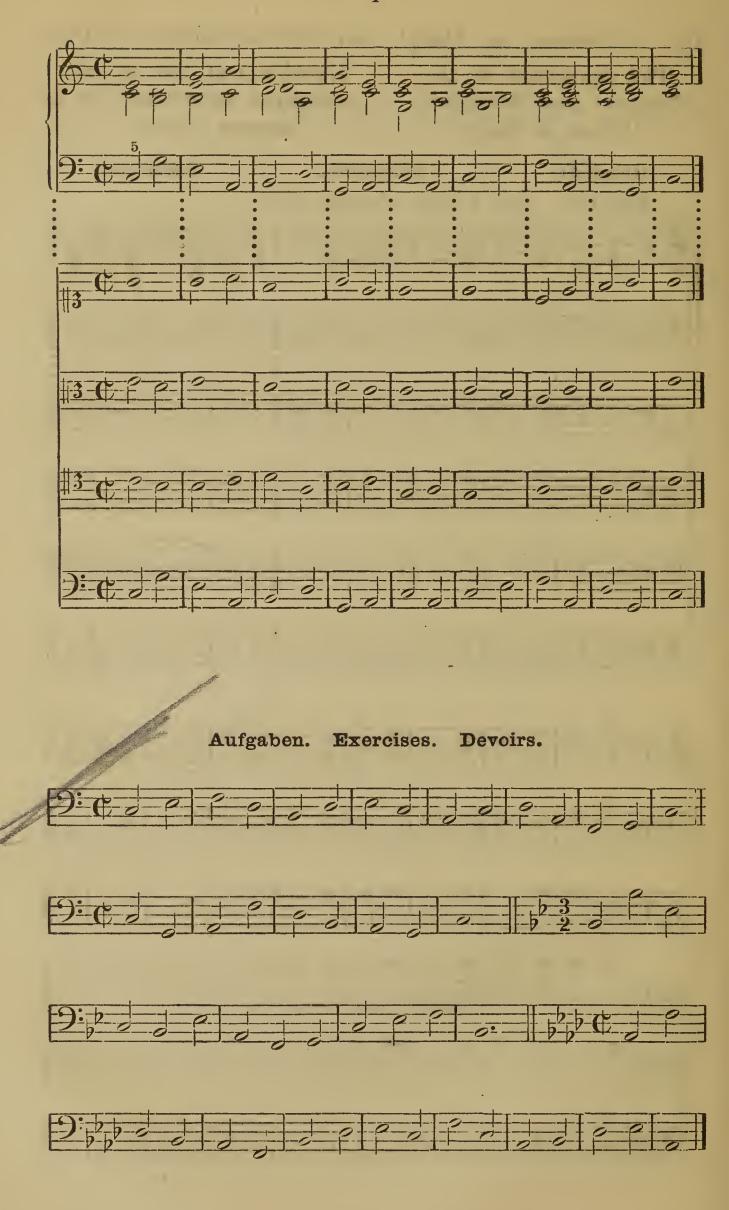


Die Verbindung der Haupt- und Nebendreiklänge in Dur.

Triads in Major.

The connection of the Primary- and Secondary- principaux secondaires de la gamme majeure.

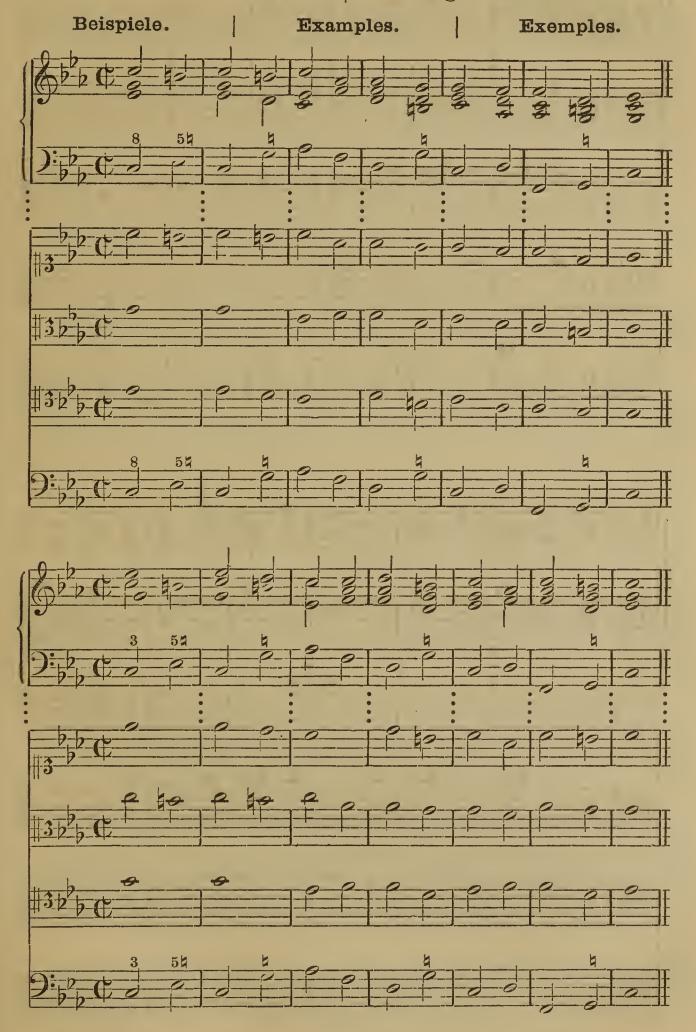


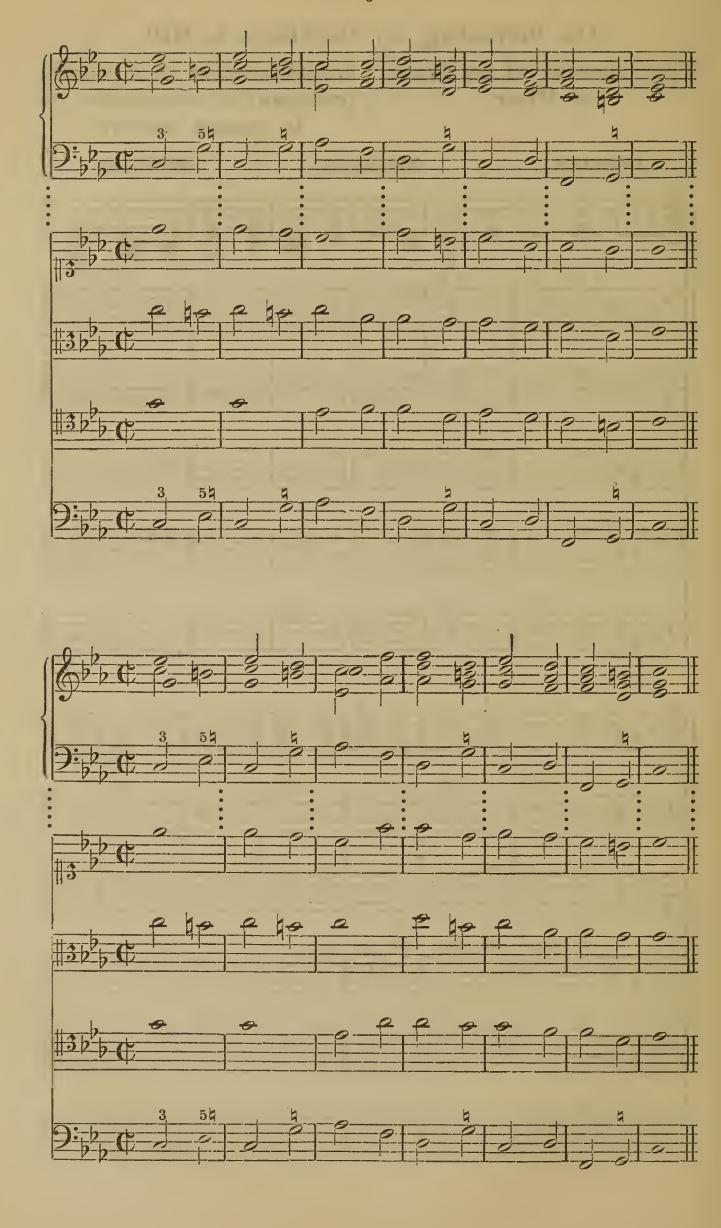


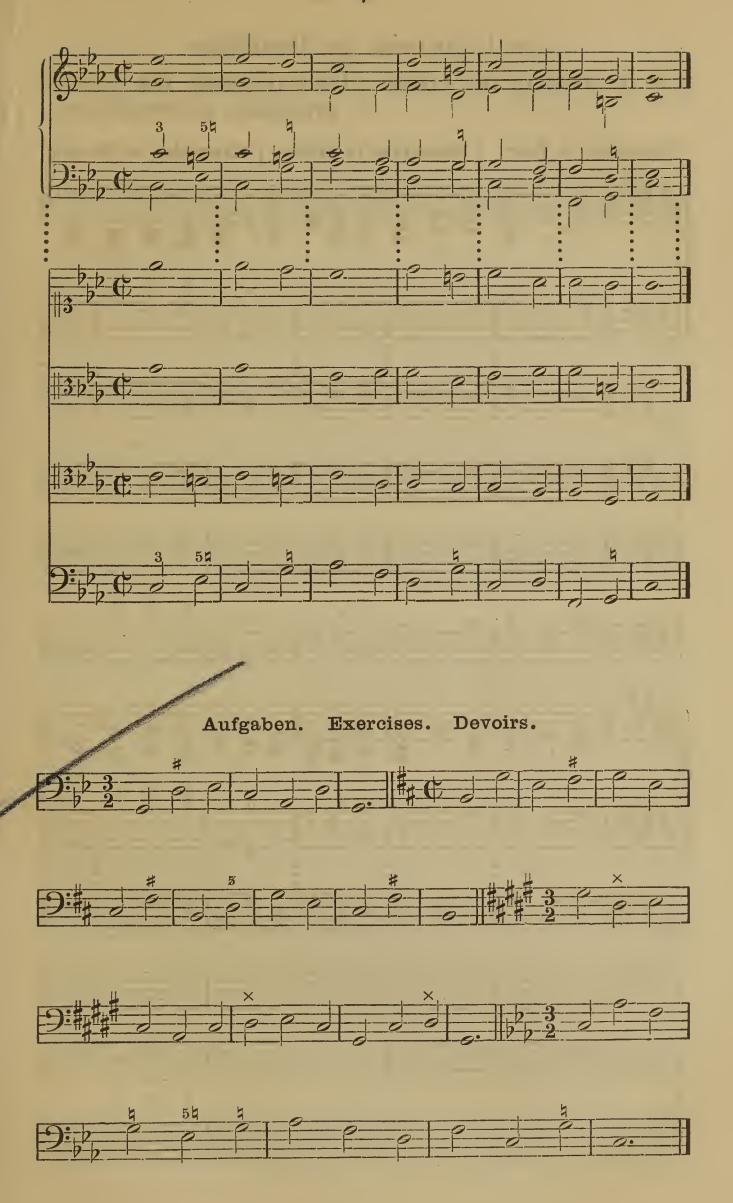
Die Verbindung der Dreiklänge in Moll.

The connection of the Triads | L'enchaînement des accords in Minor.

principaux et secondaires de la gamme mineure.



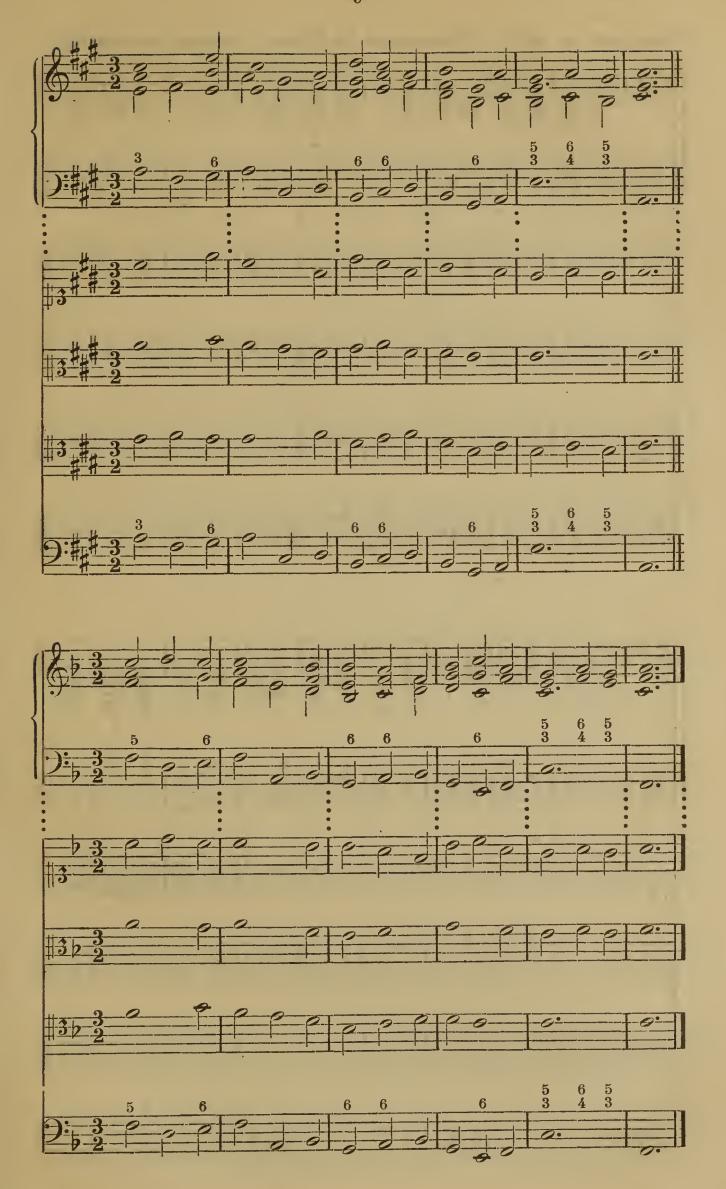


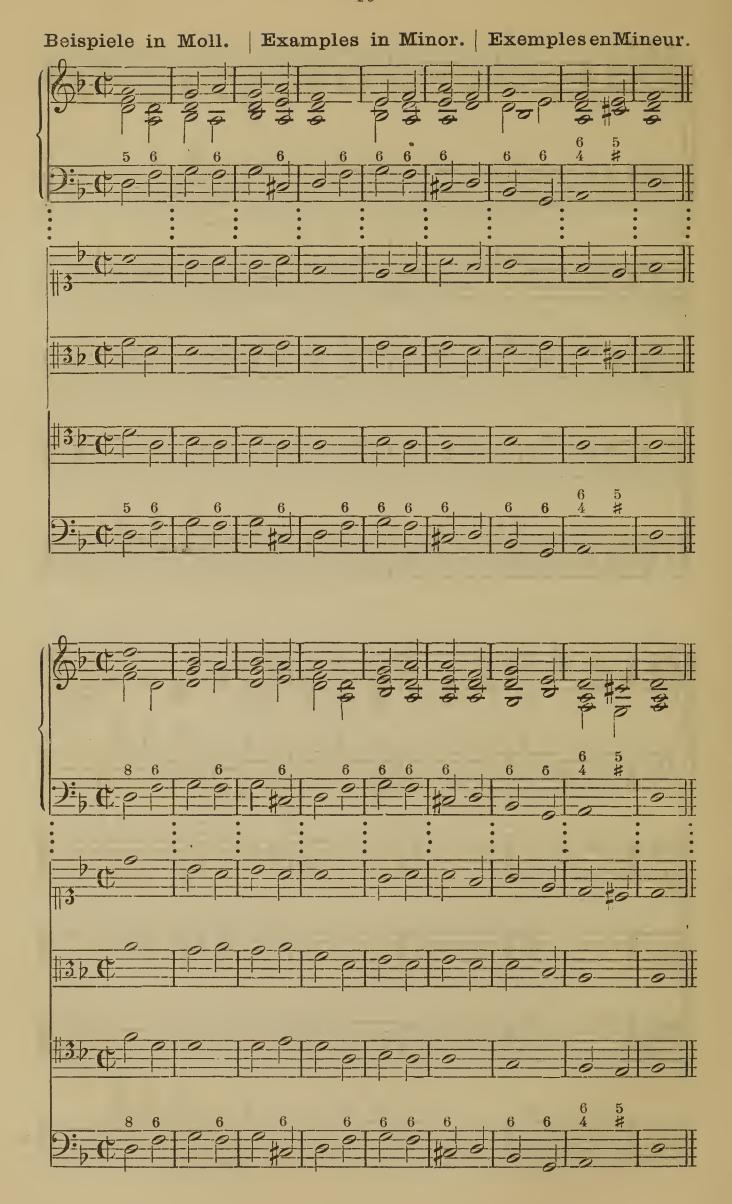


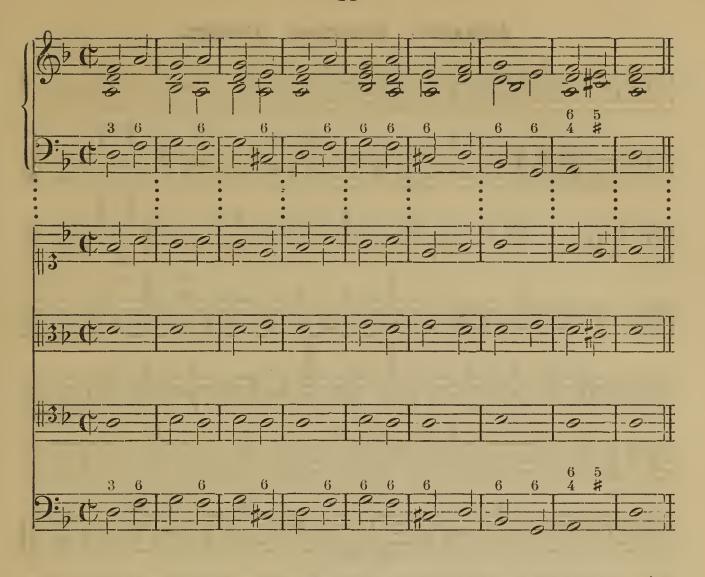
Die Umkehrung der Dreiklänge.

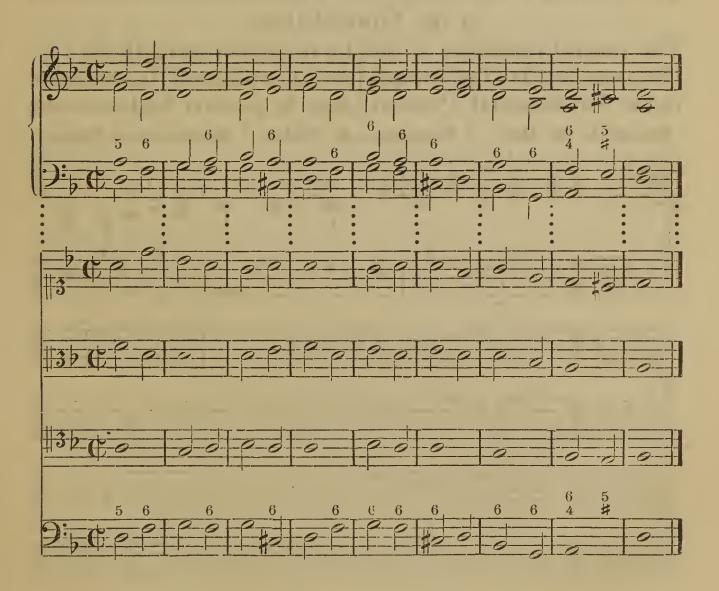
The Inversion of the Triads. Renversements des accords principaux et secondaires.

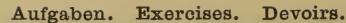
| Examples in Major. | Exemples en Majeur. Beispiele in Dur.

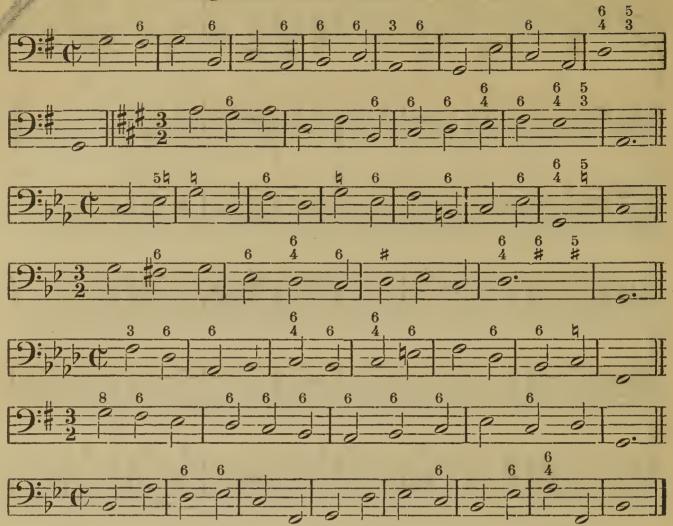






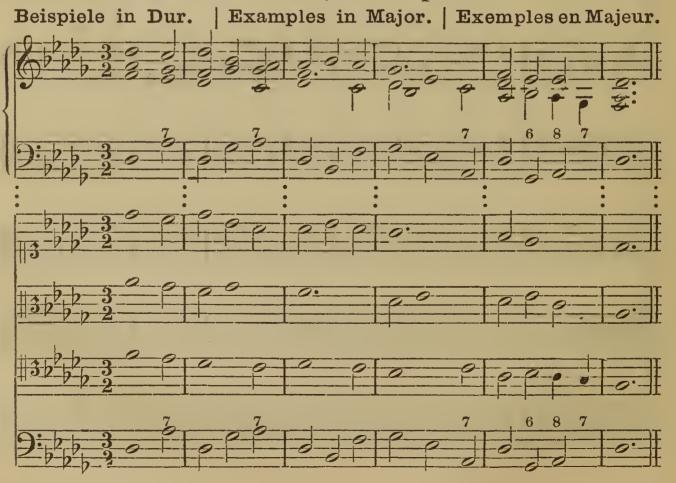


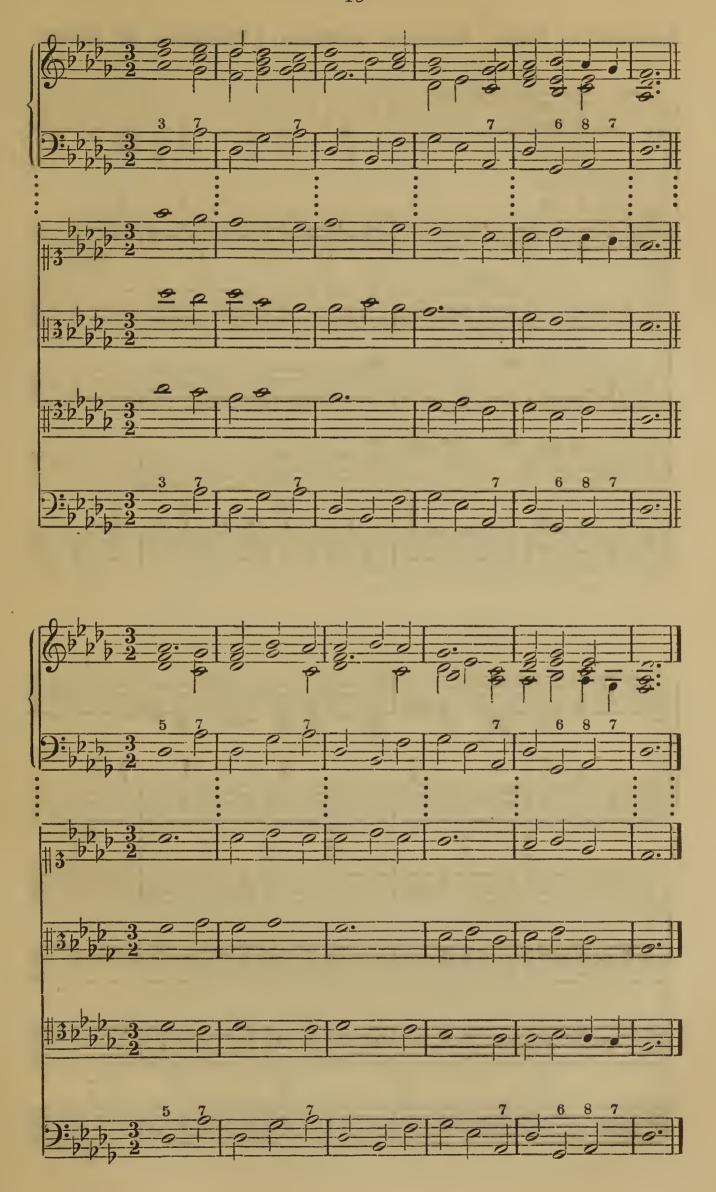




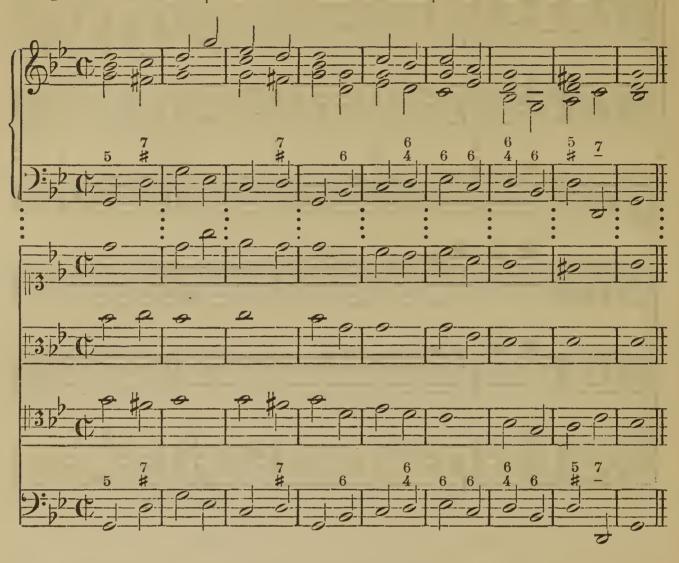
Die natürliche Auflösung des Dominantseptimen-Accordes in der Grundstellung.

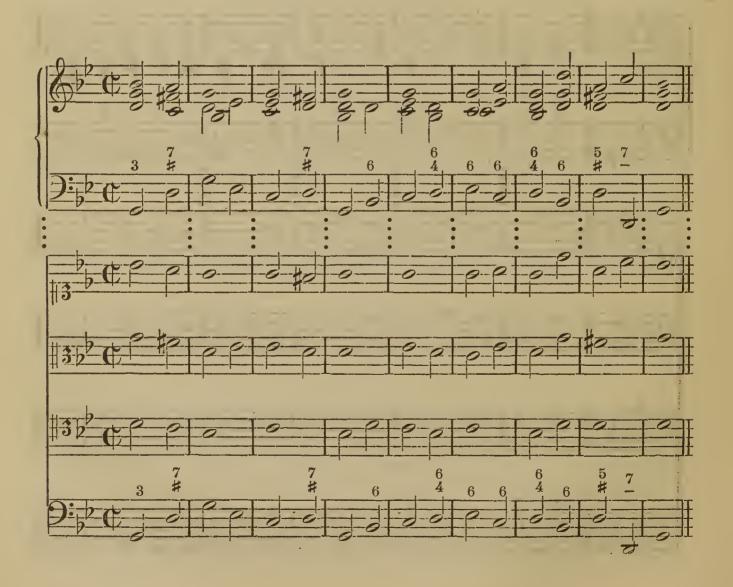
The natural resolution of the Dominant resolution of the Seventh cord deseptième de la dominante in the Fundamental Position. dans la position fondamentale.

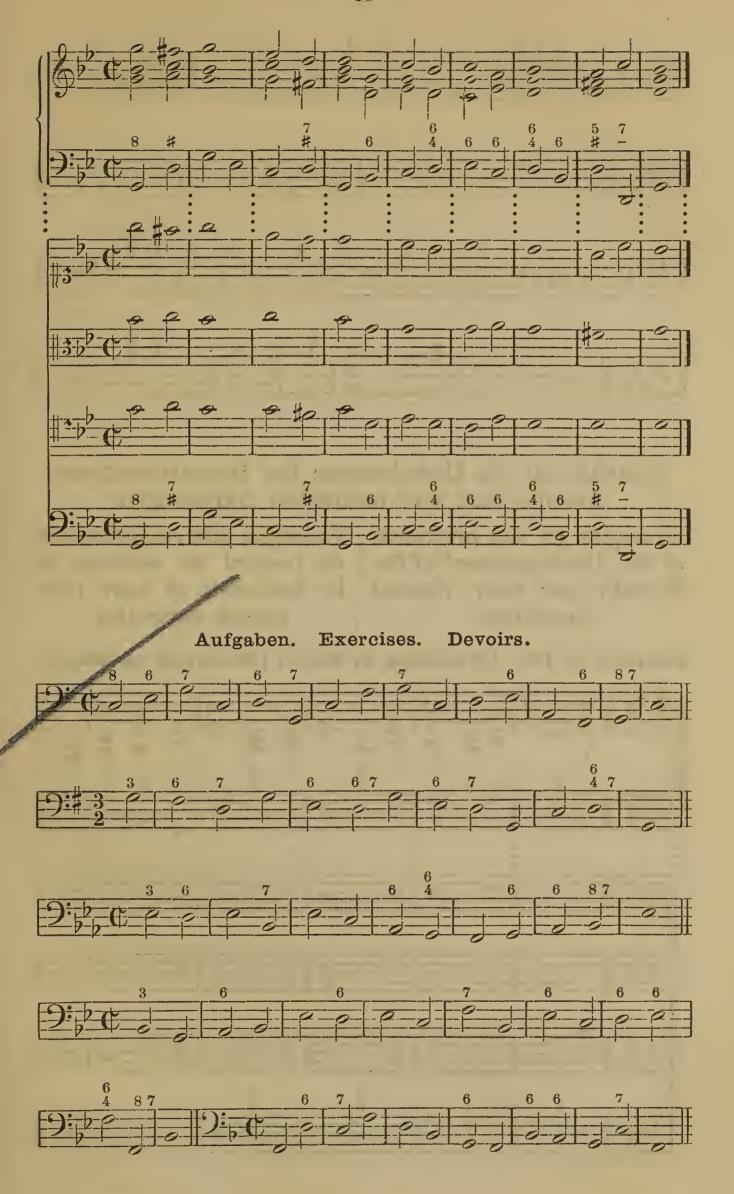




Beispiele in Moll. | Examples in Minor. | Exemples en Mineur.







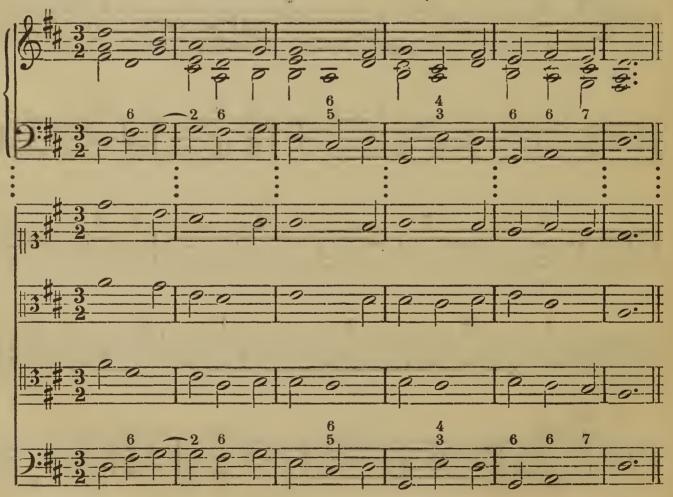


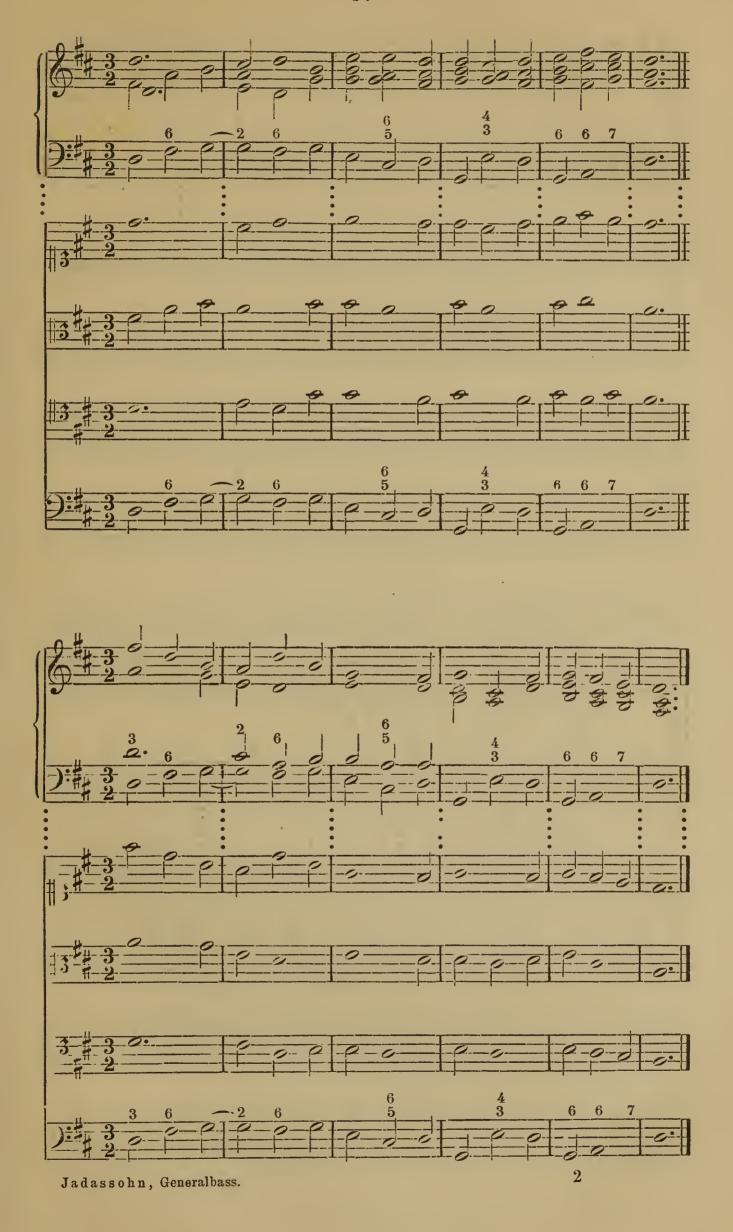
Beispiele für die Umkehrungen des Dominantseptimen-Accordes und ihre natürlichen Auflösungen.

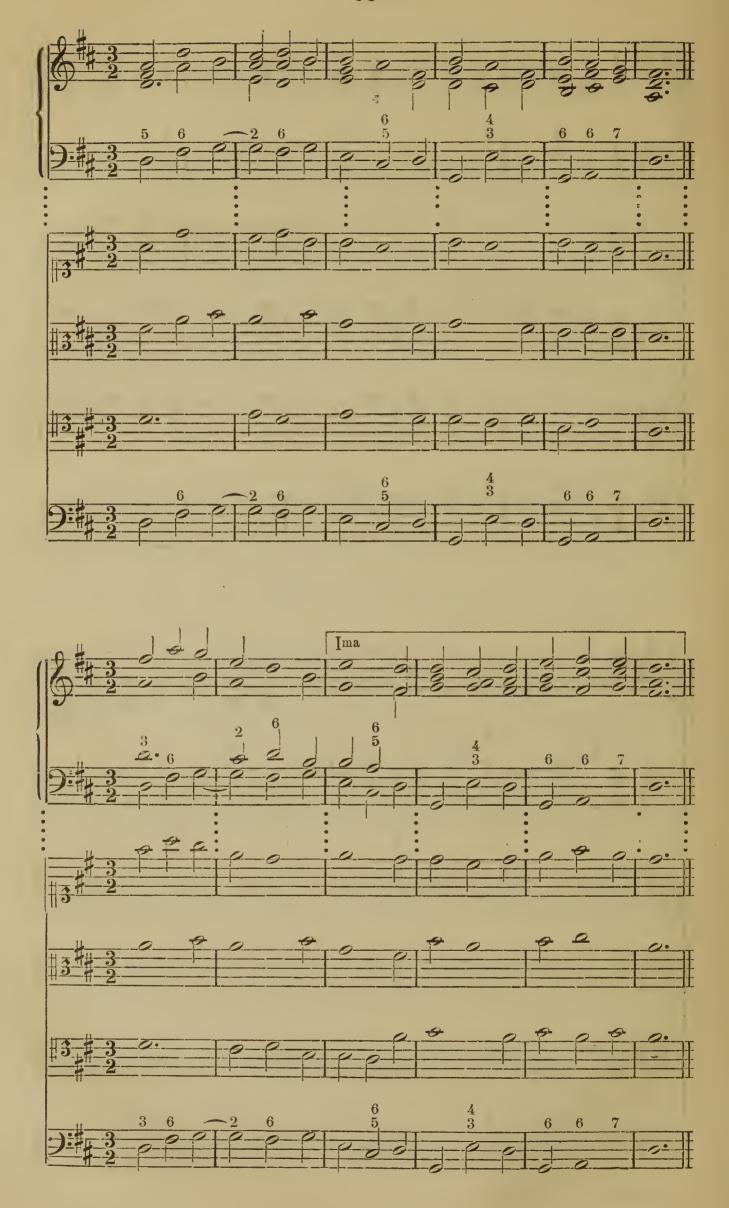
Examples for the inversions | Exemples des renversements of the Dominantchord of the Seventh and their Natural Resolutions.

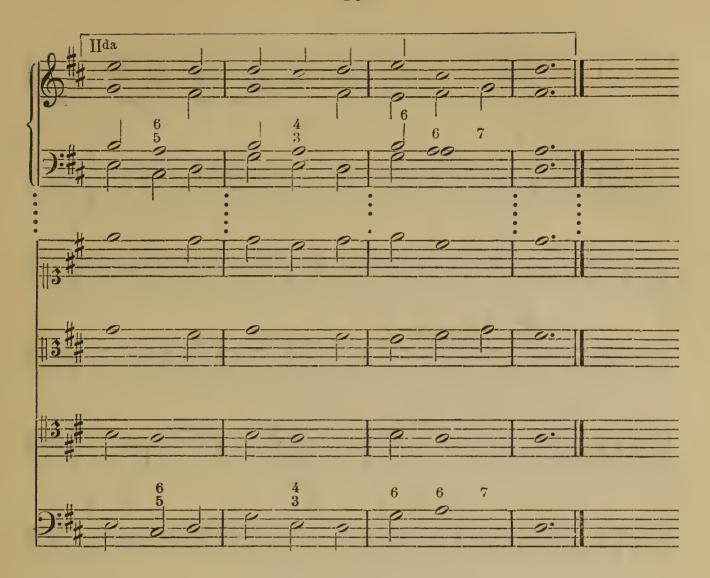
de l'accord de septième de la dominante et leurs résolutions naturelles.

Beispiele in Dur. | Examples in Major. | Exemples en Majeur.

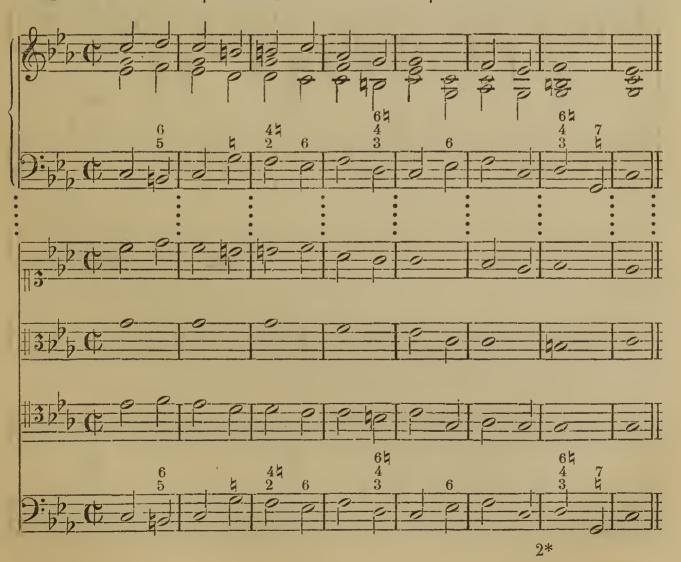


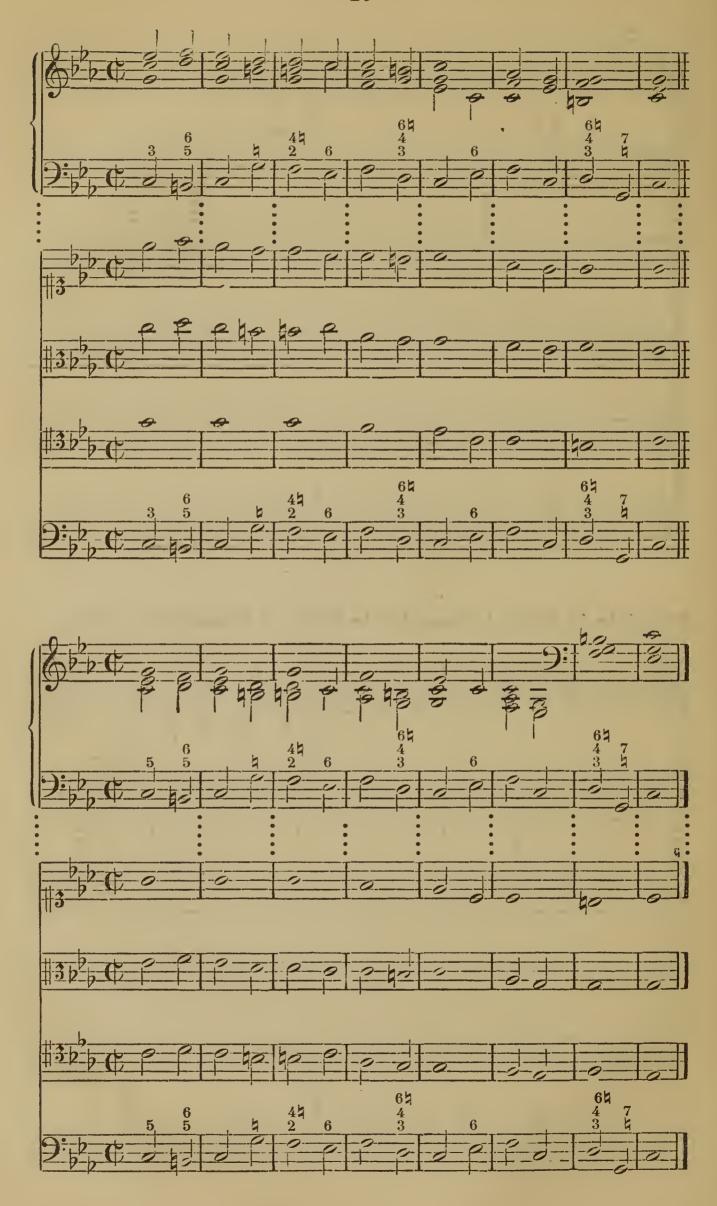


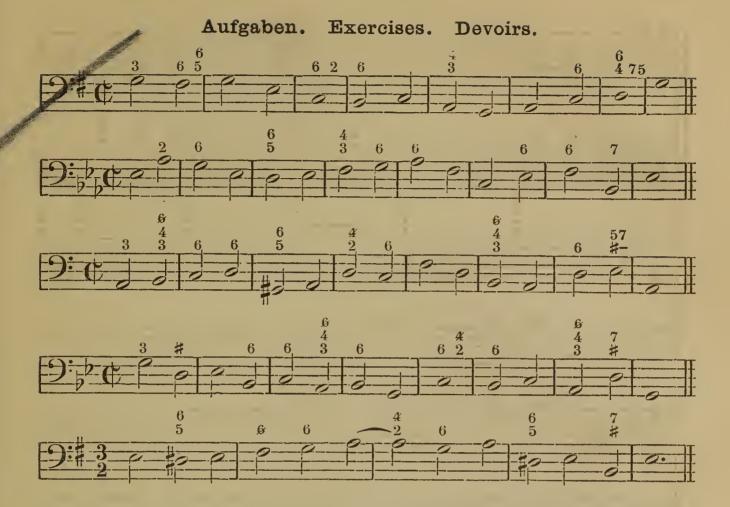




Beispiele in Moll. | Examples in Minor. | Exemples en Mineur.

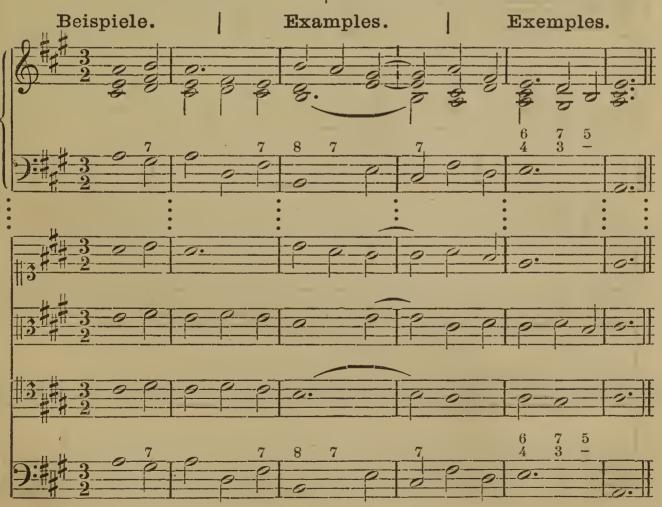


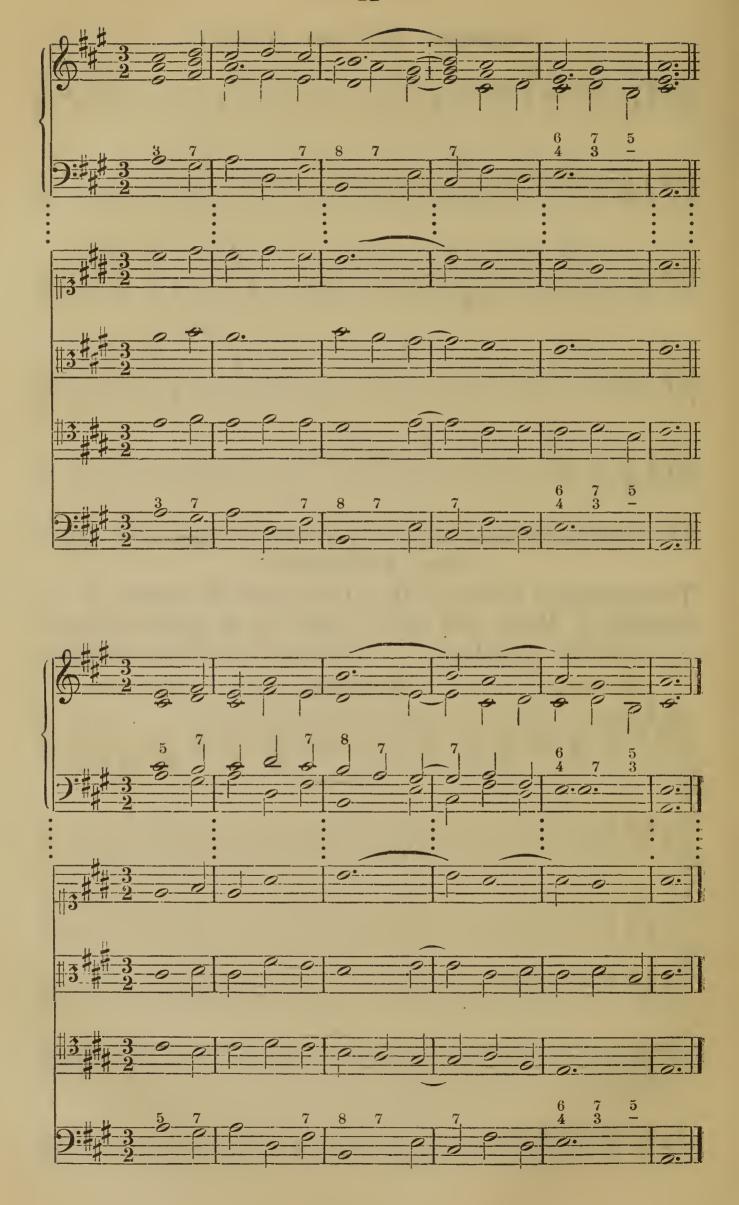


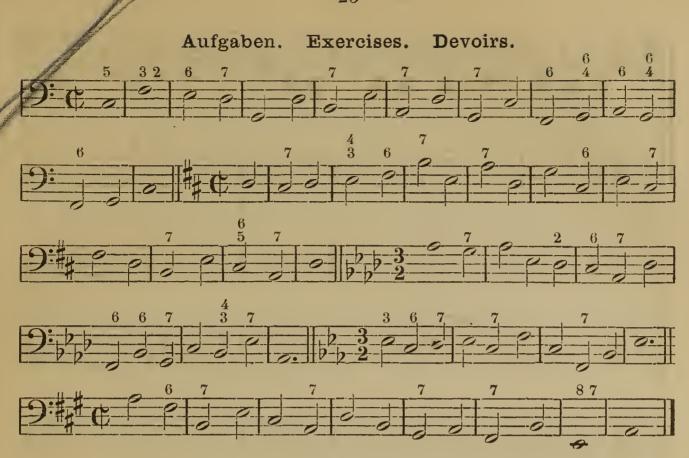


Die Nebenseptimenaccorde der Durtonart und ihre natürlichen Auflösungen.

The Secondary Chords of the | Les accords de septième secon-Seventh in Major and their daires de la gamme majeure et leurs résolutions naturelles.



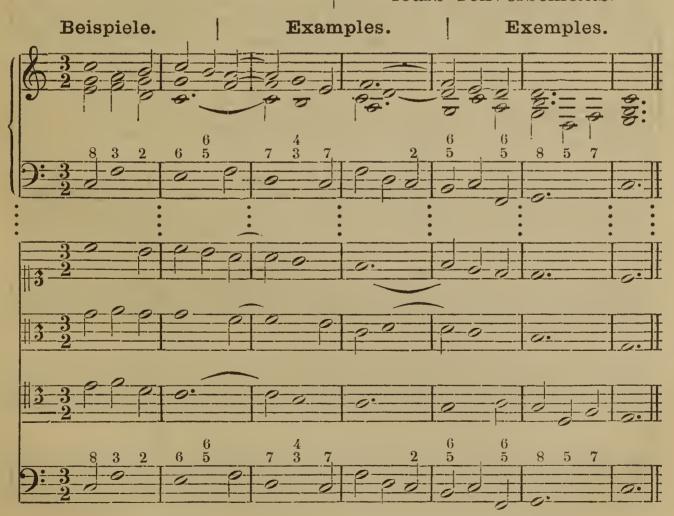


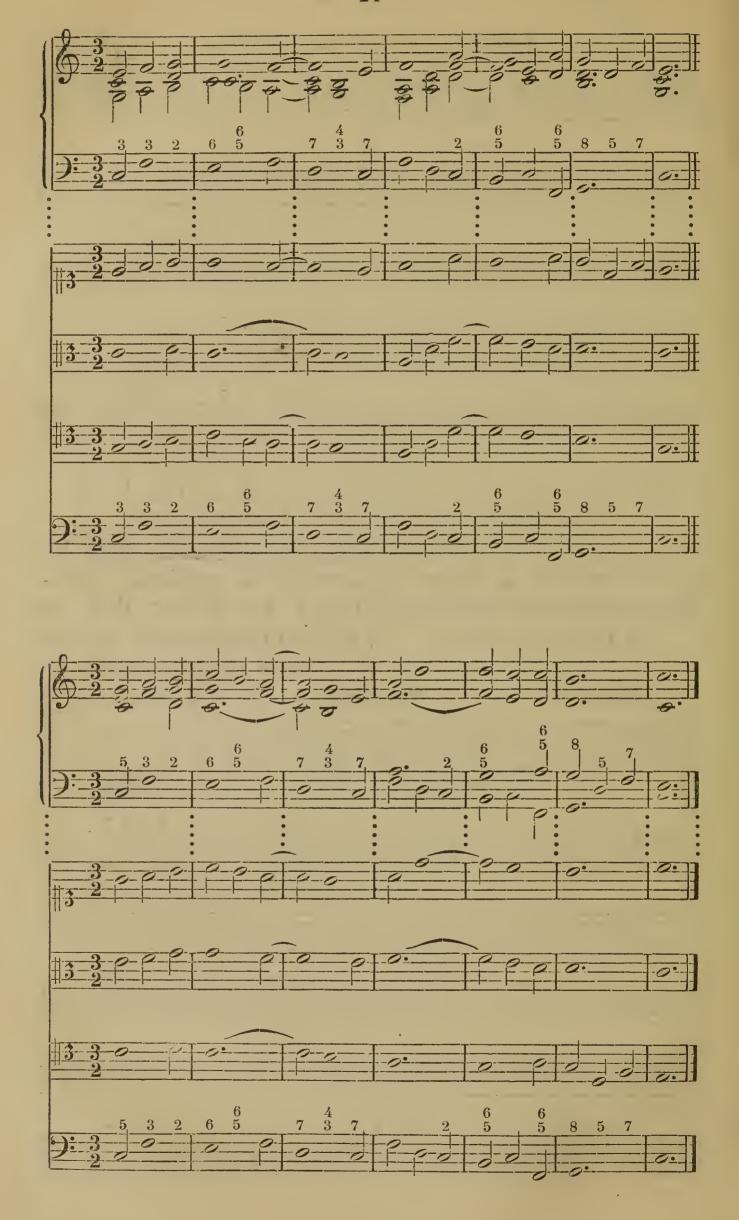


Die Verbindung aller Septimen-Accorde in Dur in der Grundstellung und in ihren Umkehrungen.

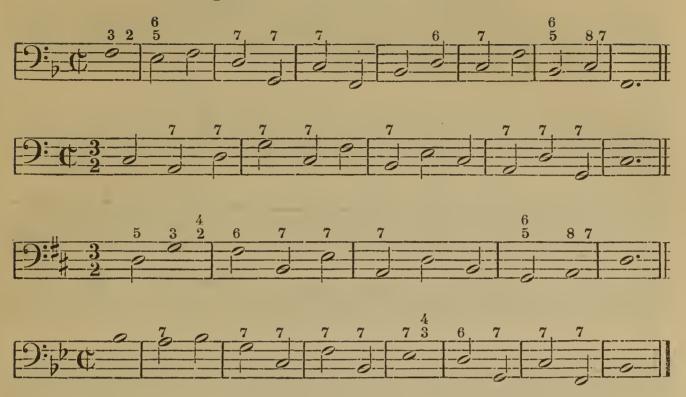
of the Seventh in Major in in their inversions.

The connection of all Chords | L'enchaînements de tous les accords de septième secontheir fundamental position and daires en Majeur dans la position fondamentale et dans leurs renversements.



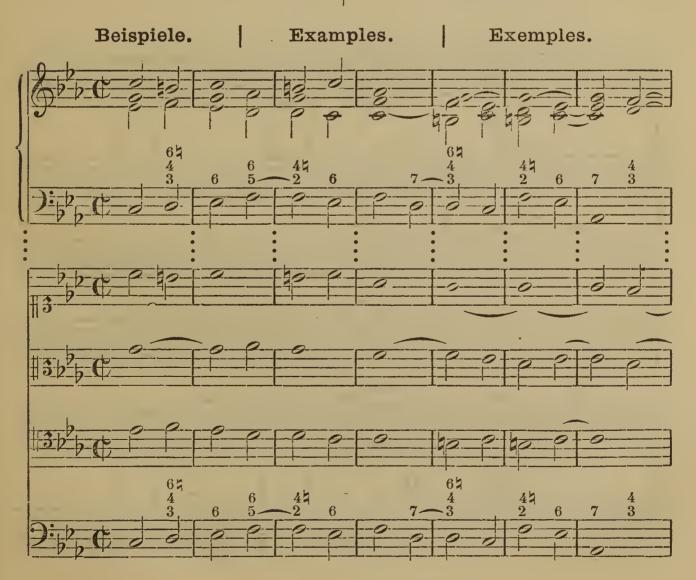


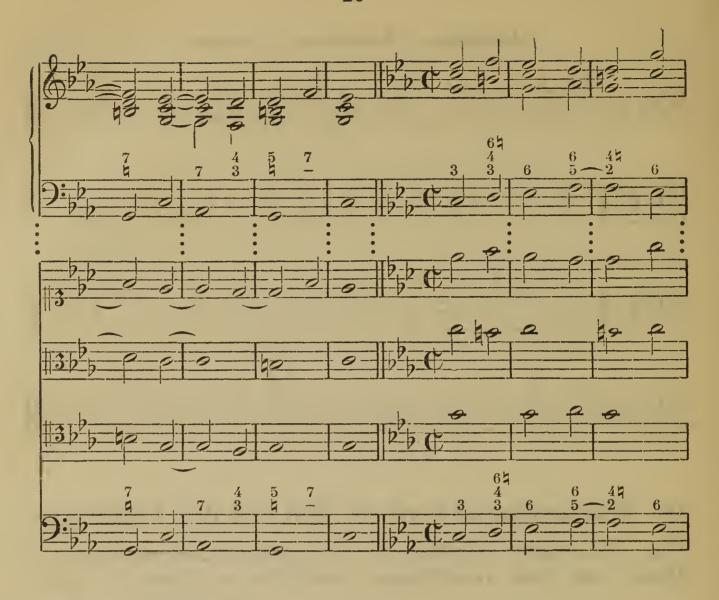
Aufgaben. Exercises. Devoirs.

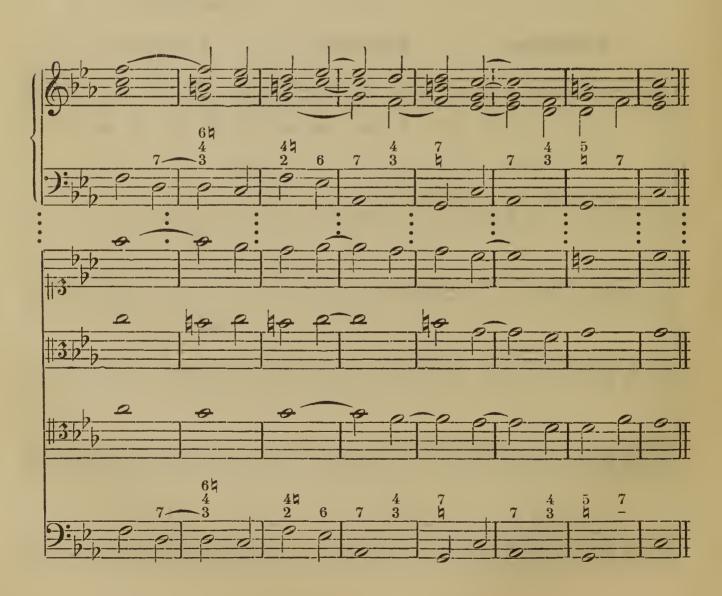


Die Nebenseptimen-Accorde in Moll und ihre Auflösungen.

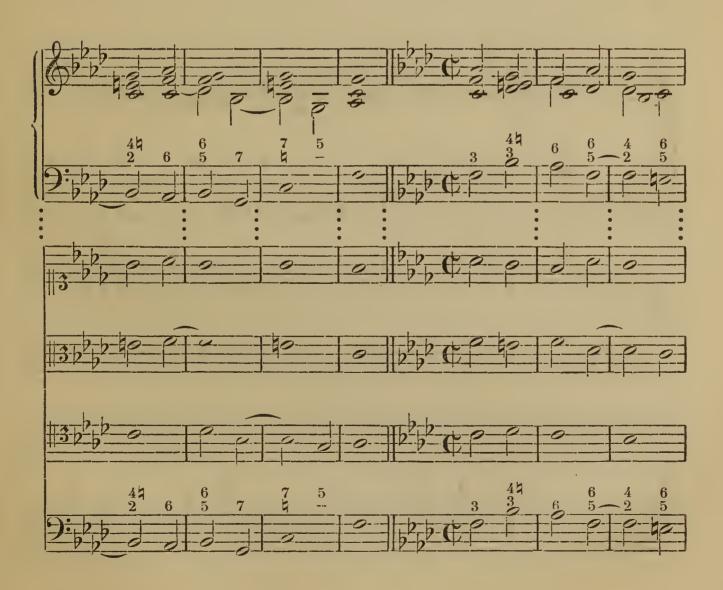
The Secondary Chords in Les accords de septième seMinor and their resolutions. condaires en Mineur et leurs
résolutions.

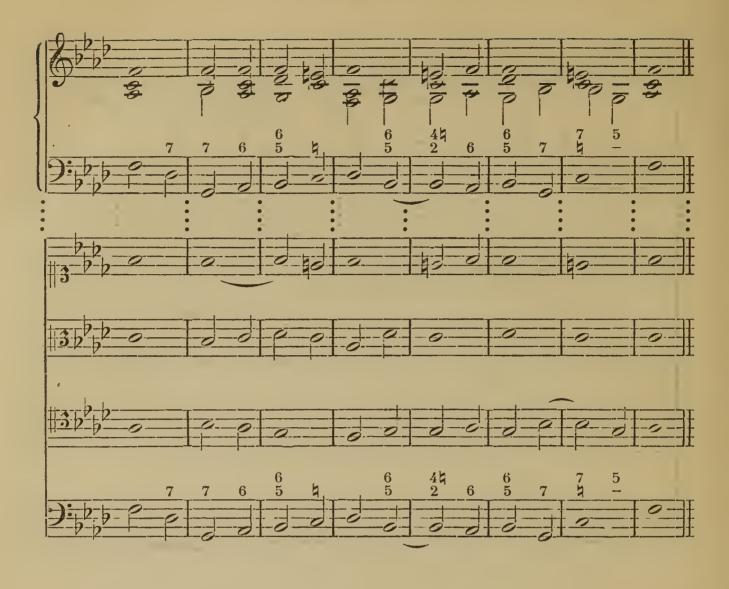


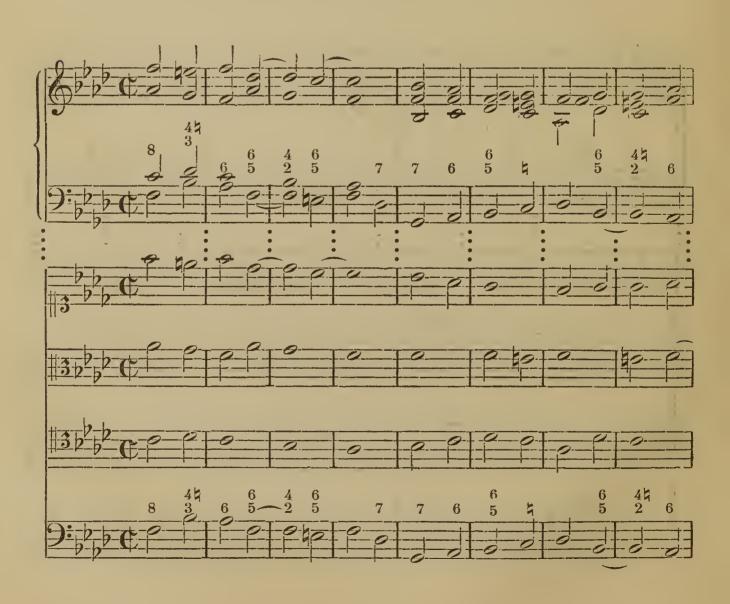


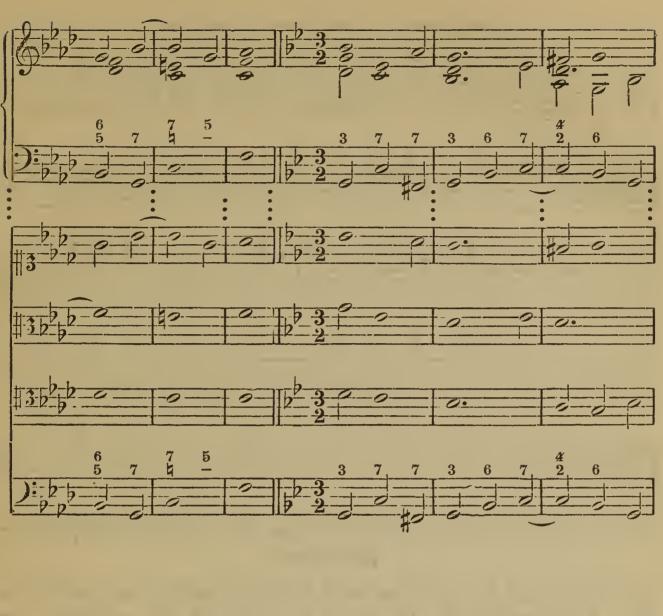


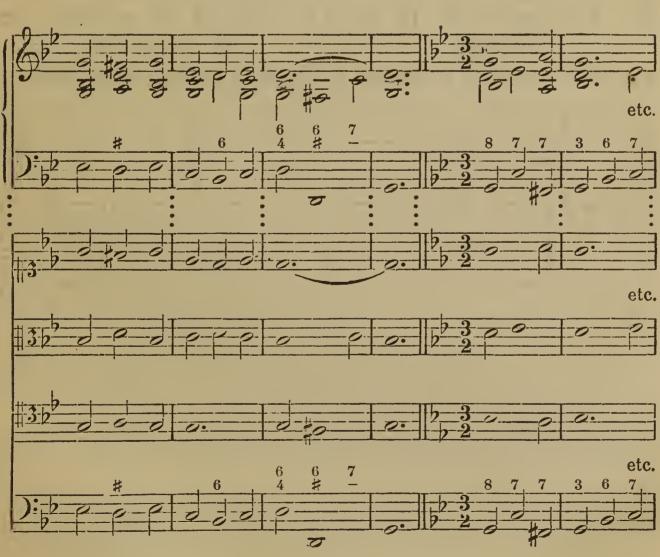


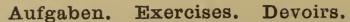










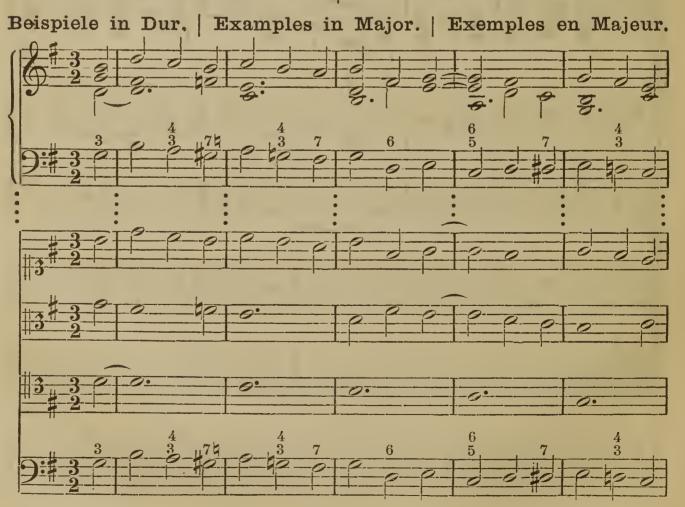


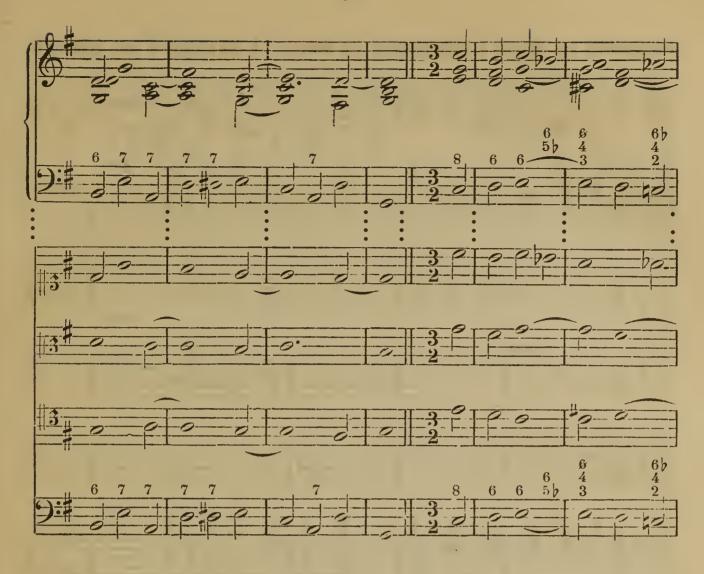


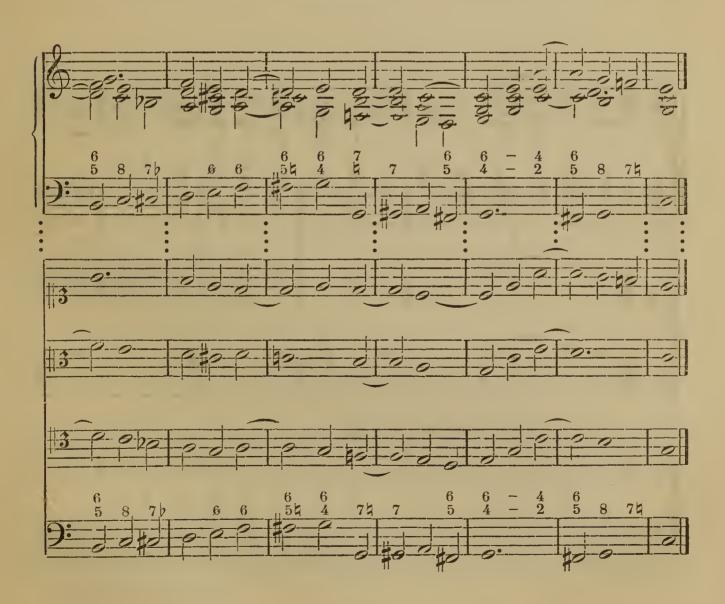
Nicht kadenzierende Verbindungen des Dominantseptimen-Accordes.

Noncadencing Connections of | Enchaînements non cadencés Dominantchord of the Seventh.

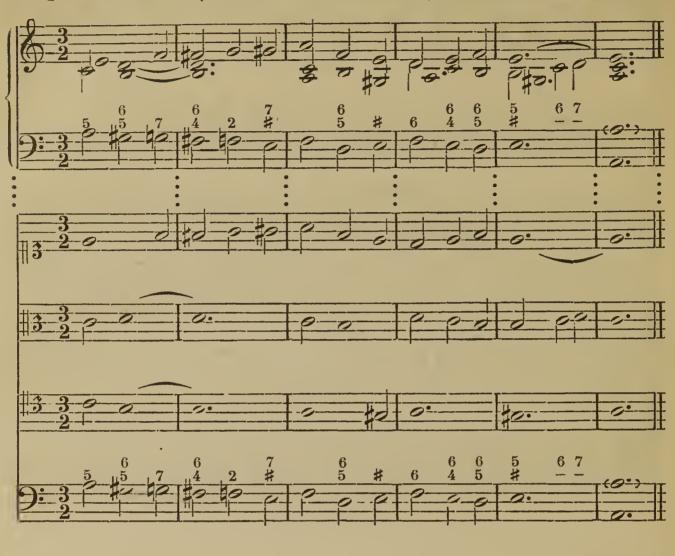
de l'accord de septième de la Dominante.

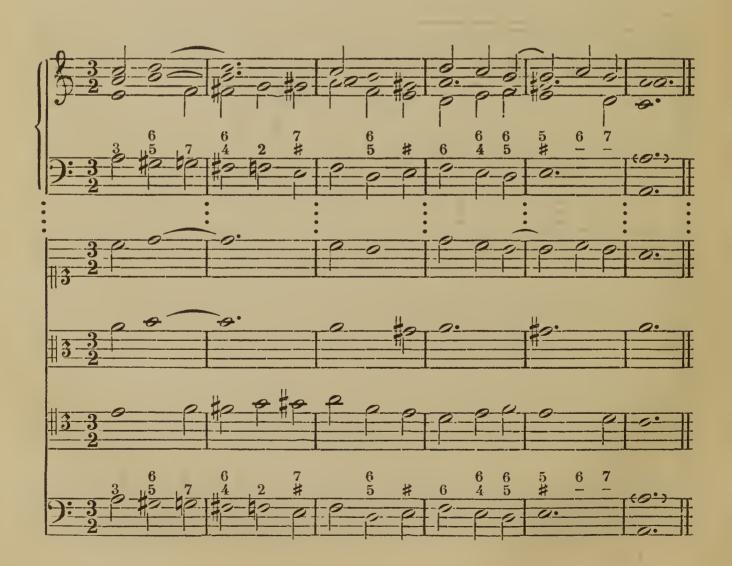


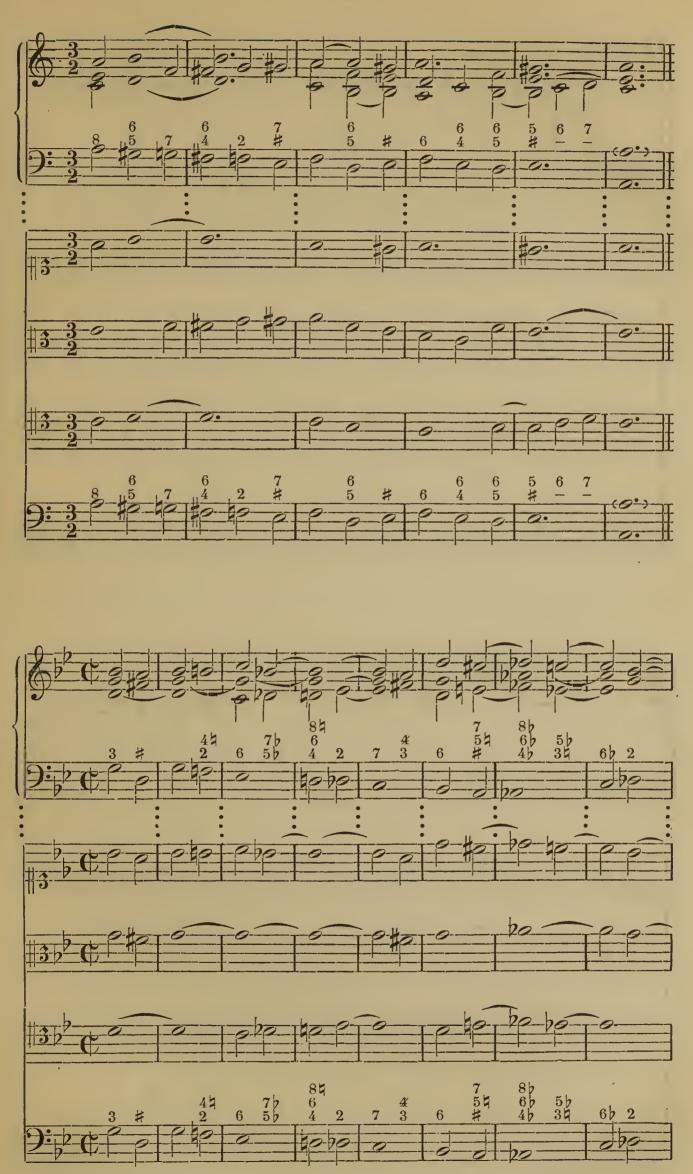


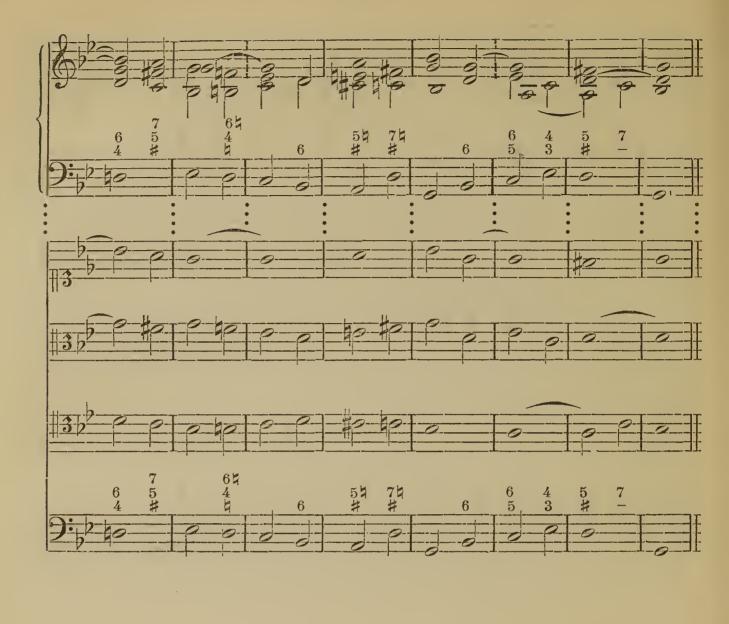


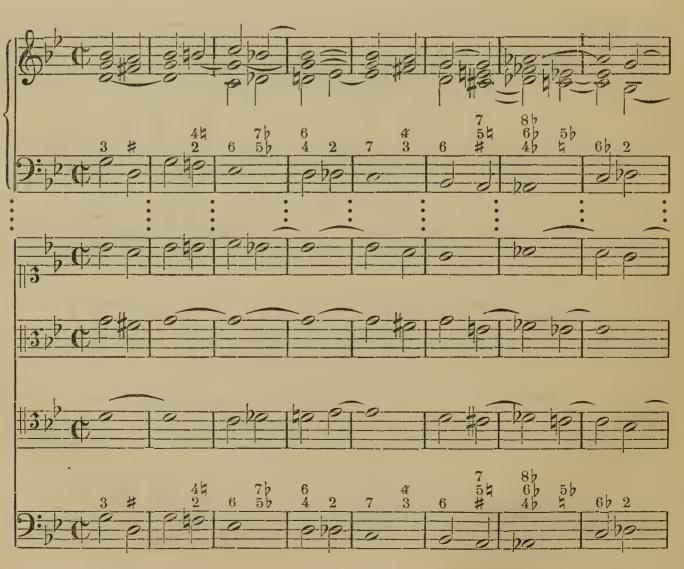
Beispiele in Moll. | Examples in Minor. | Exemples en Mineur.

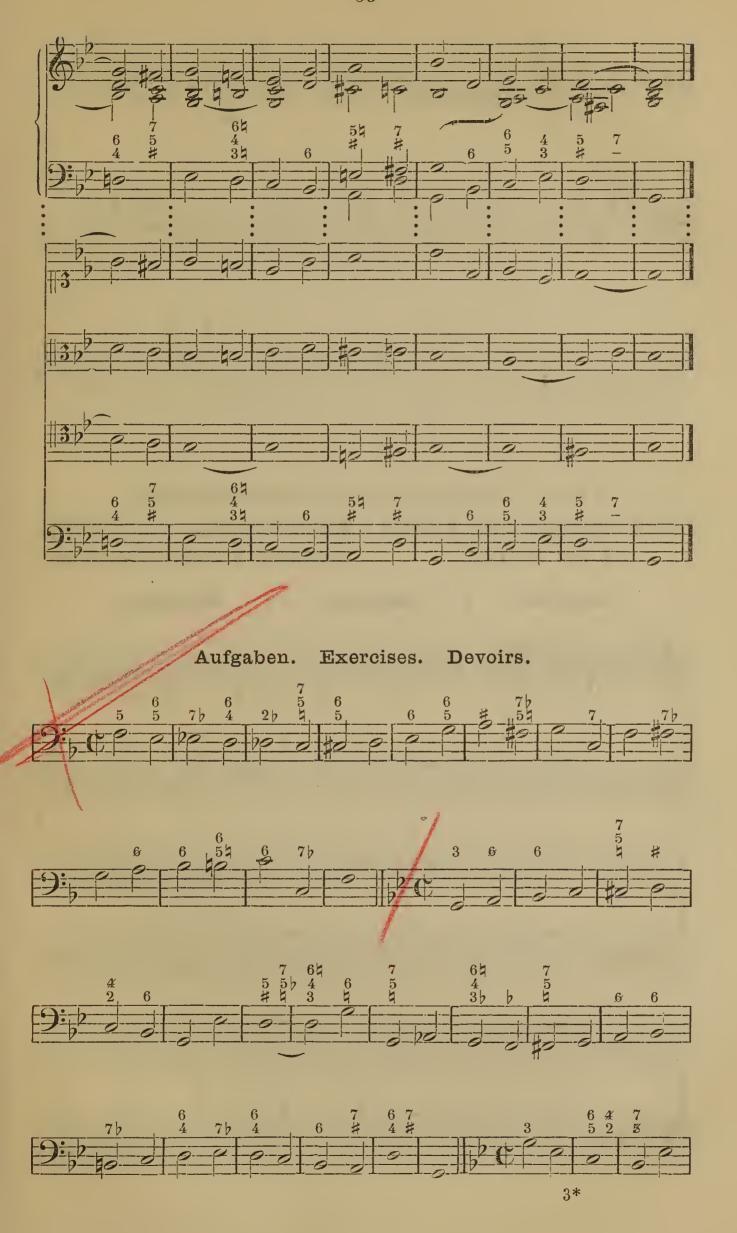








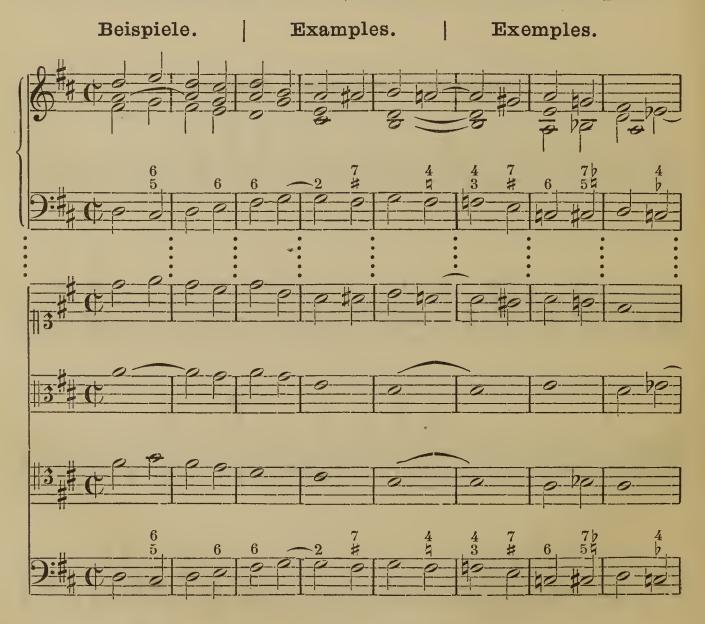


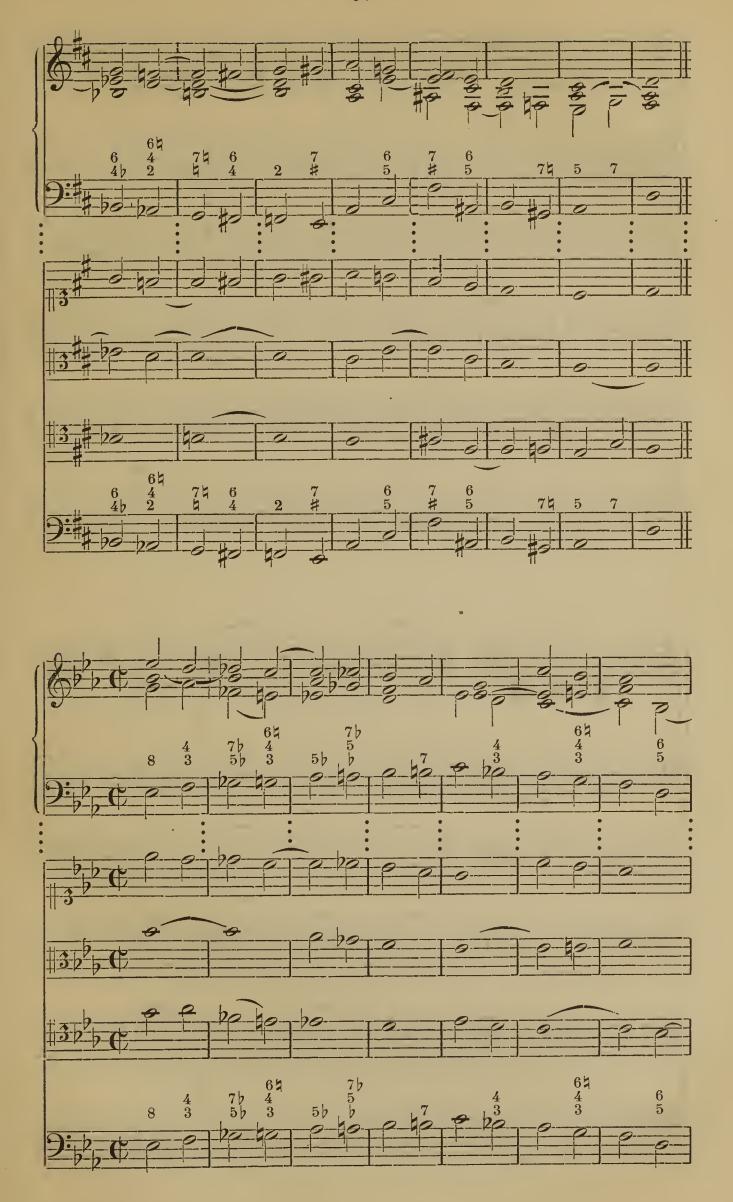


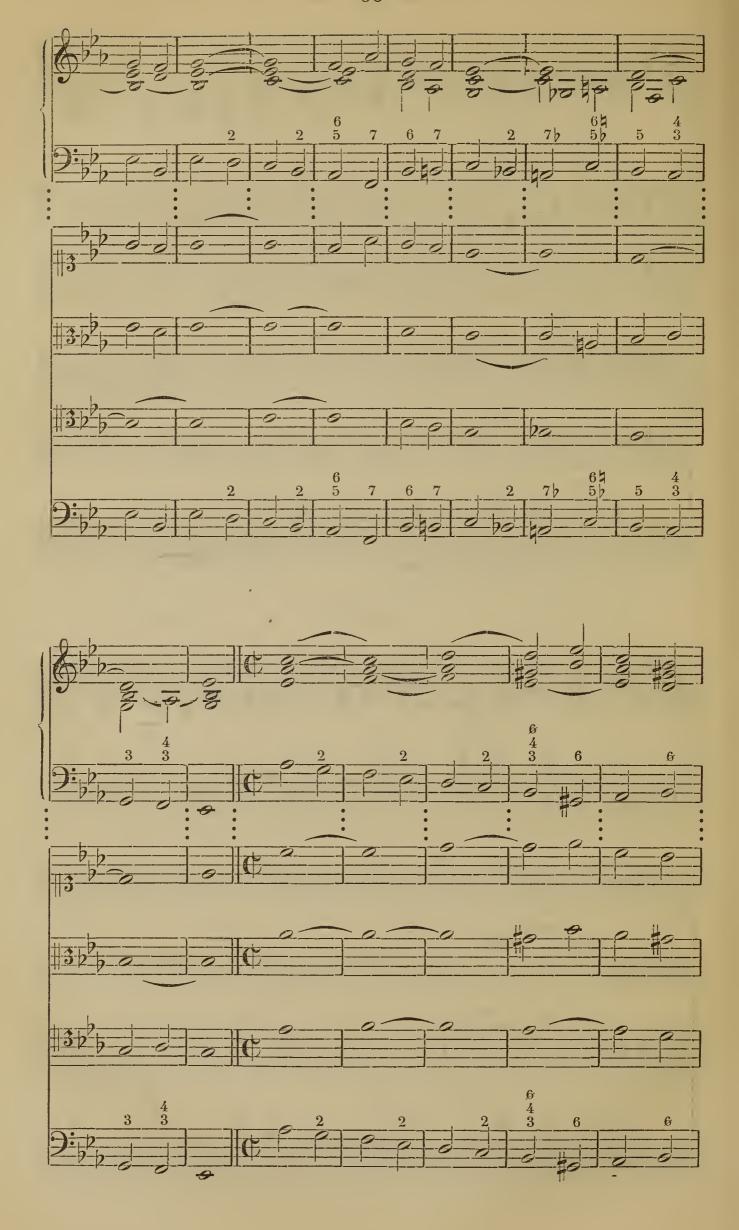


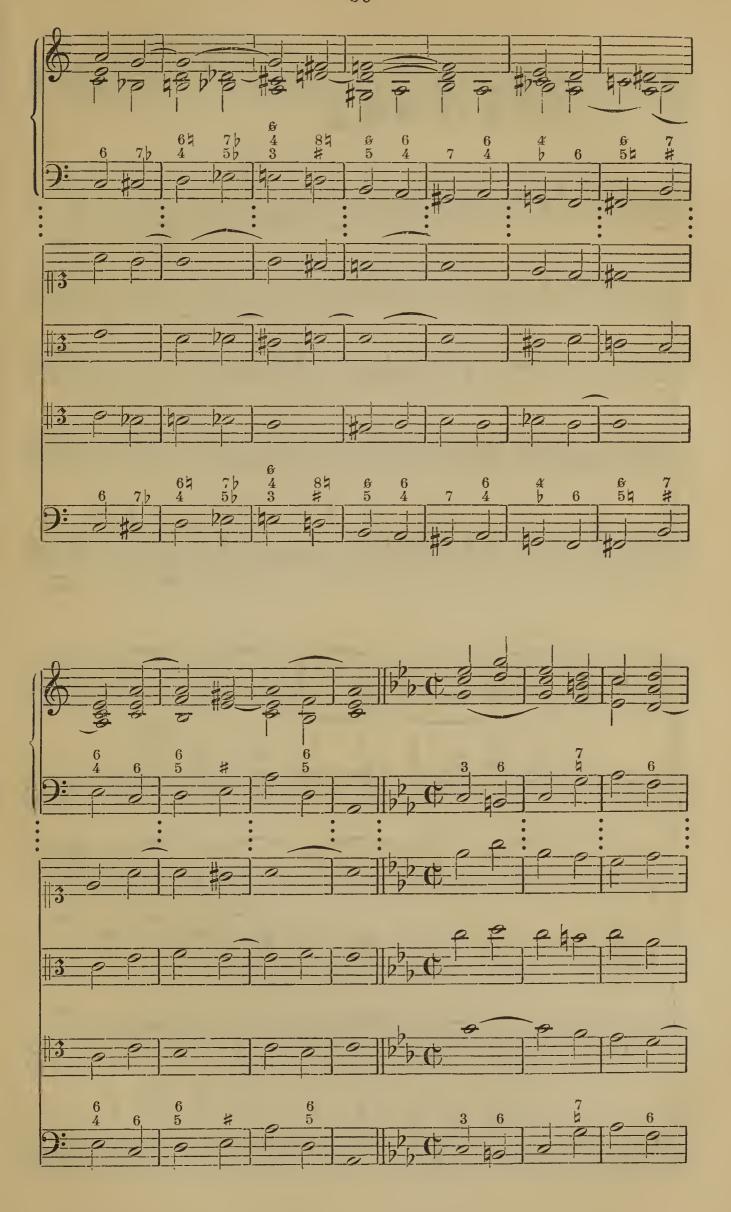
Freie Verbindungen aller Septimenaccorde.

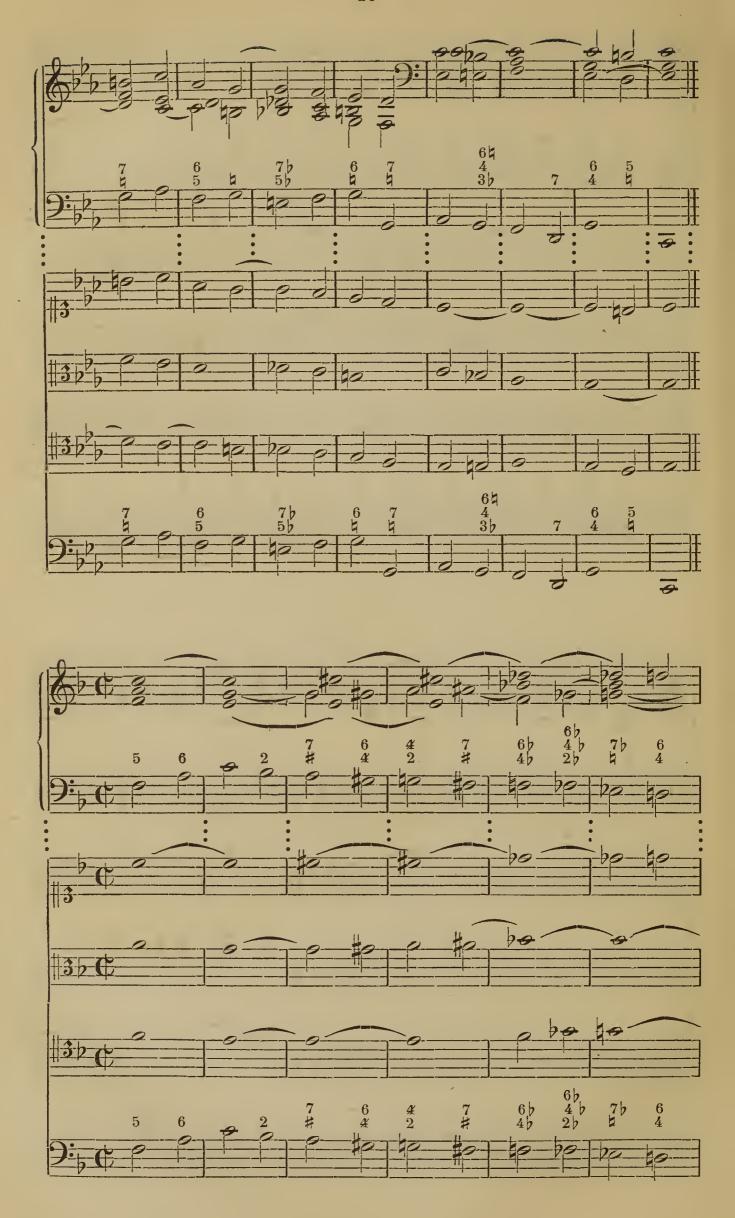
Free Connection of all Chords | Enchaînements non cadencés of the Seventh. | de tous les accords de septième.

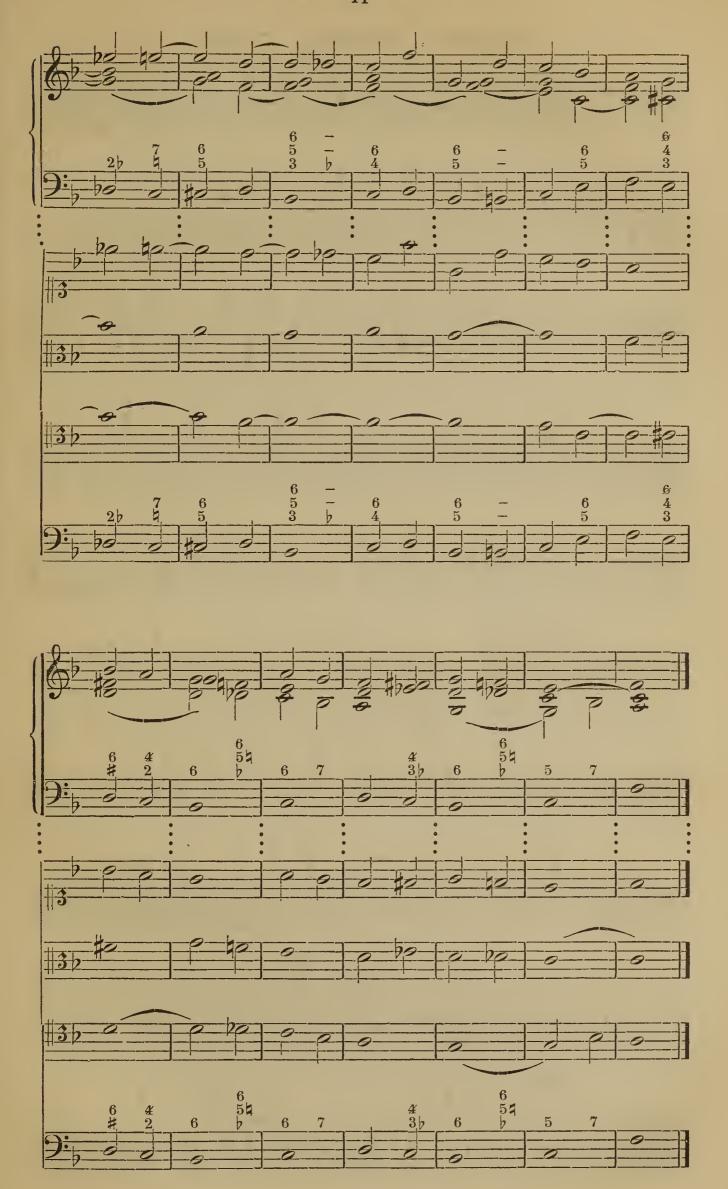


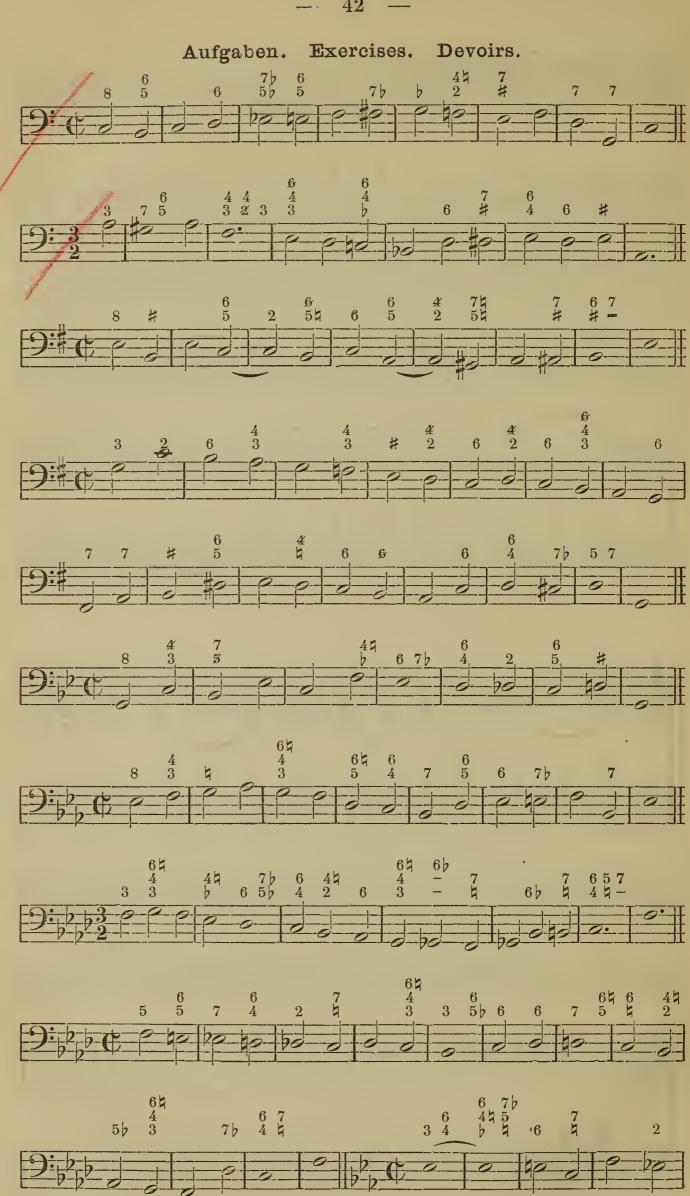


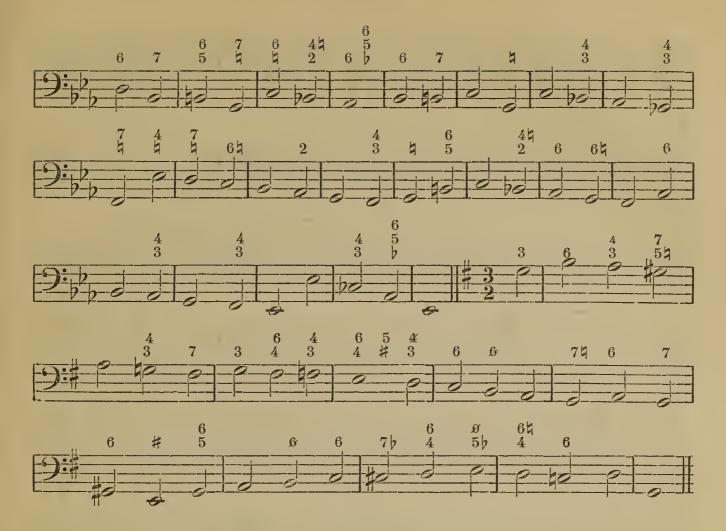






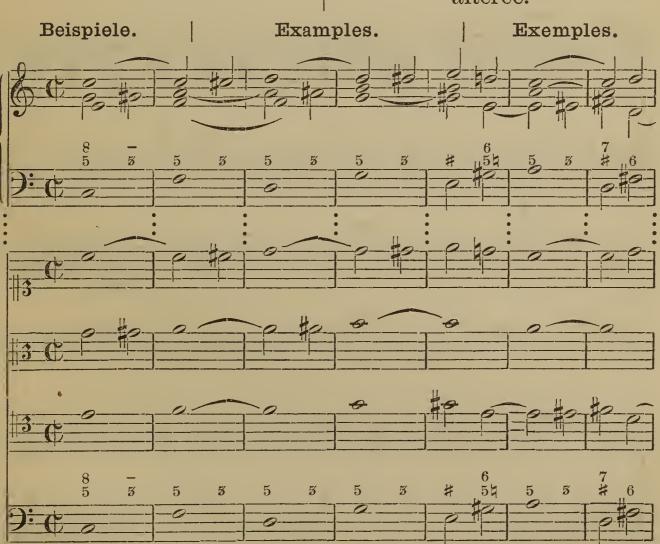


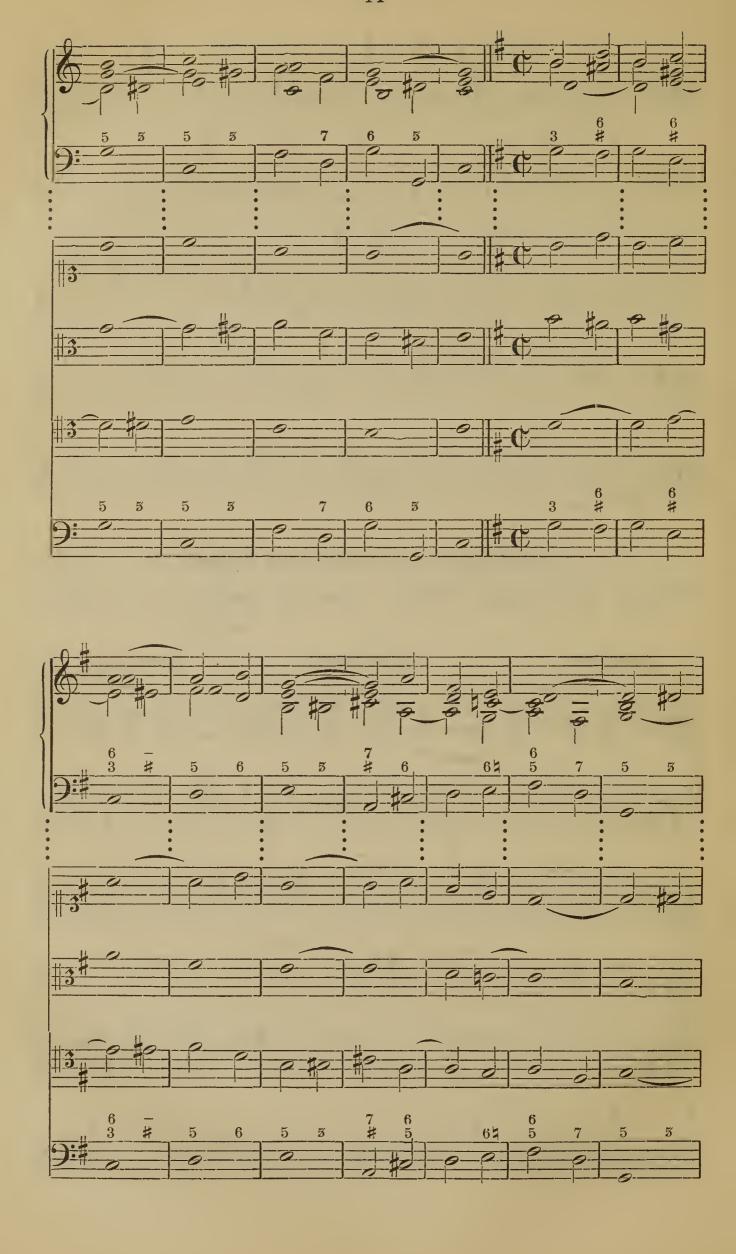


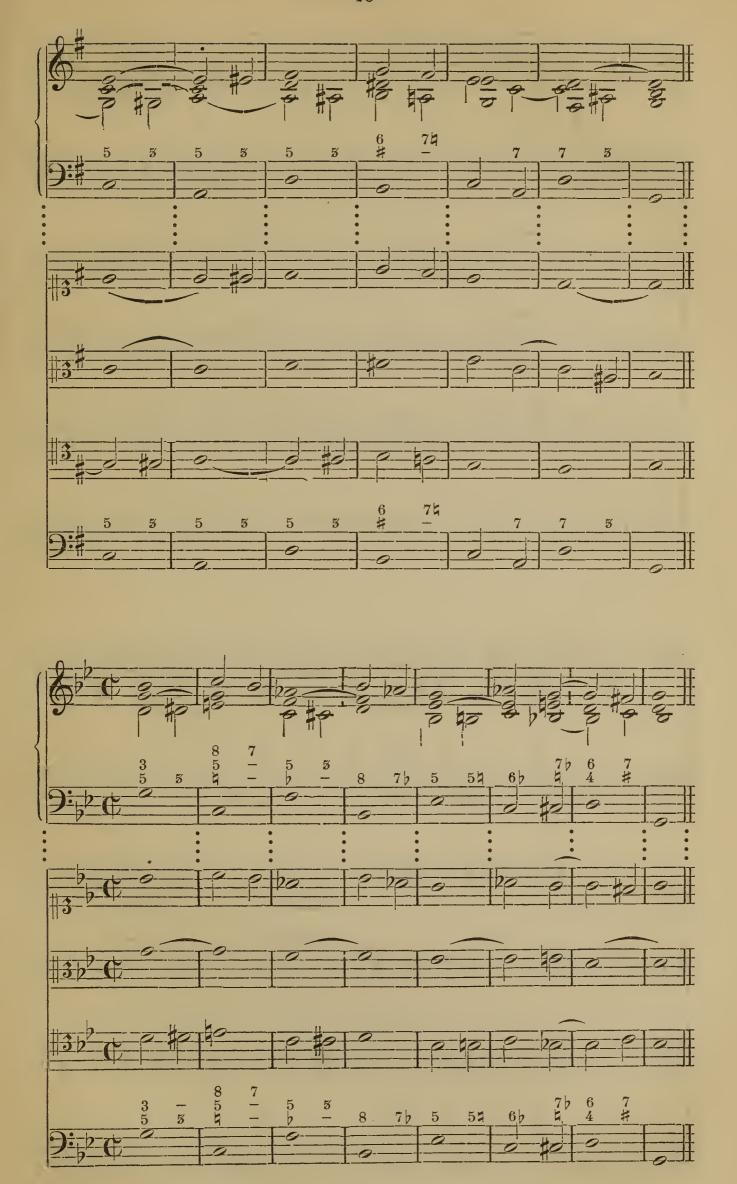


Dreiklänge mit alterierter Quinte.

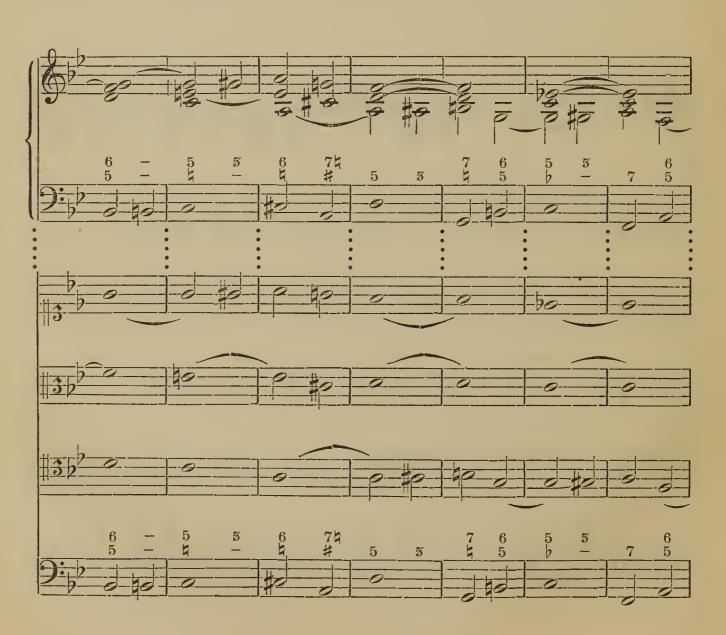
Triads with altered Fifth. | Accords parfaits avec quinte altérée.

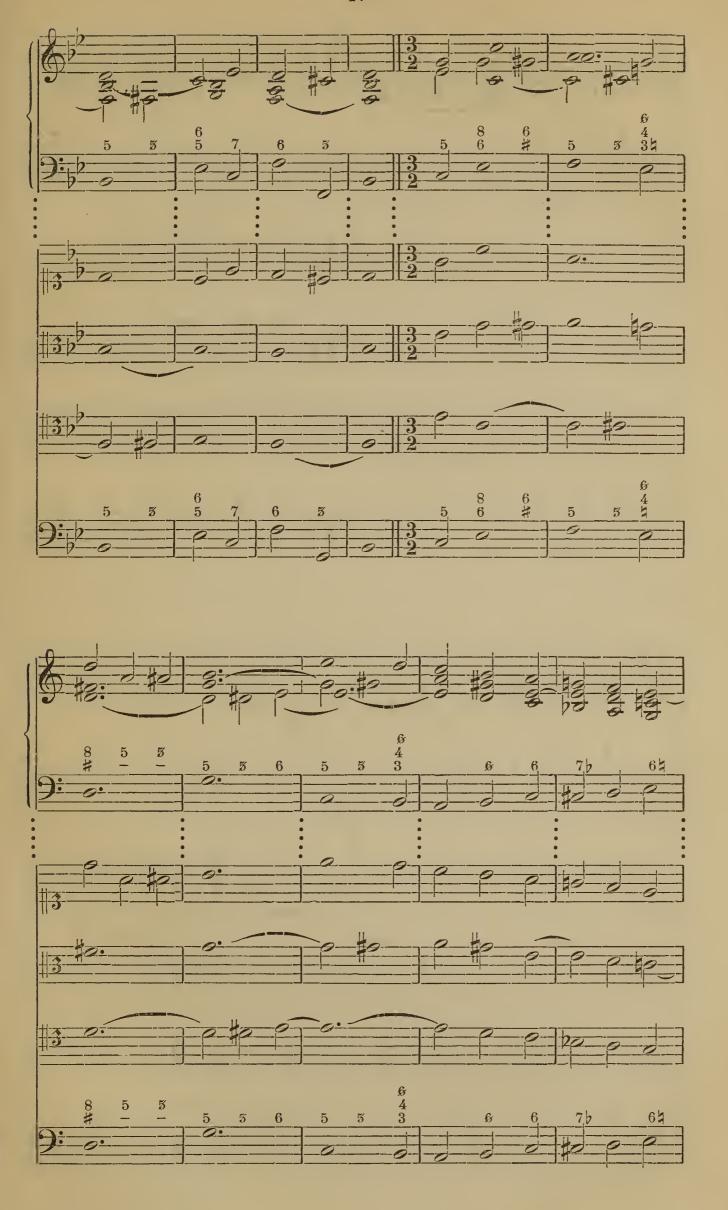


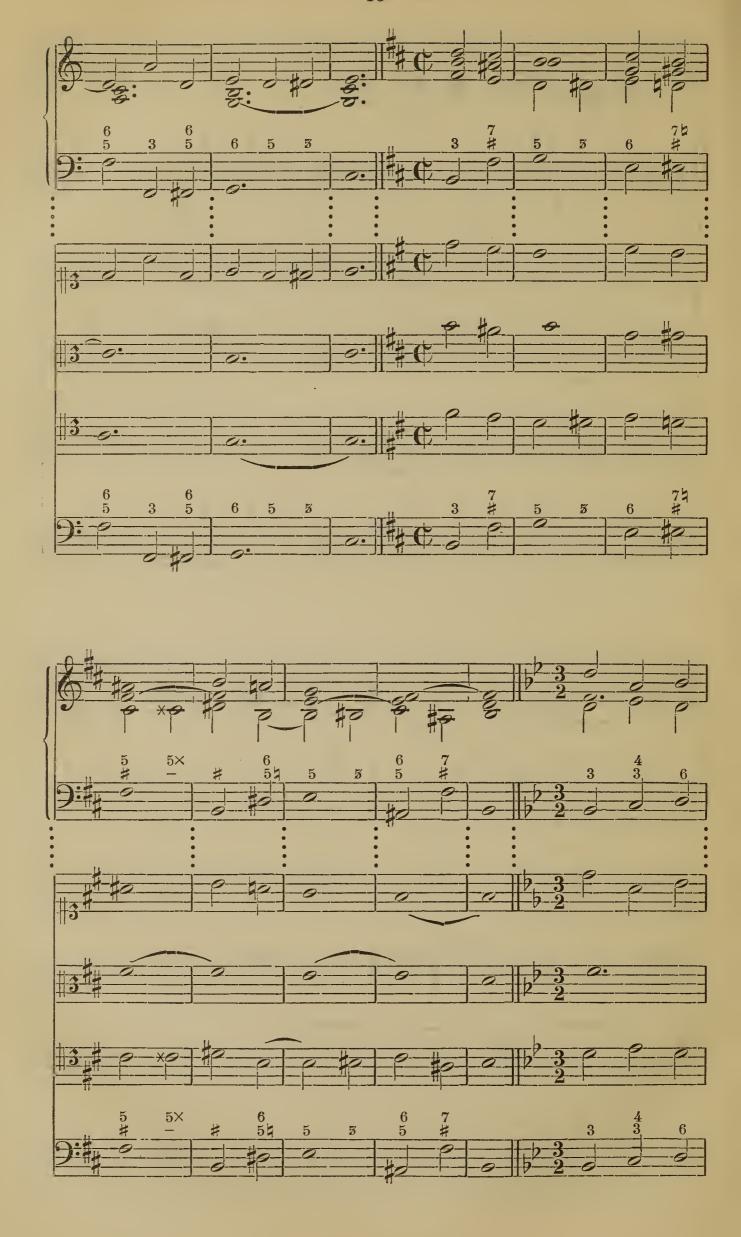


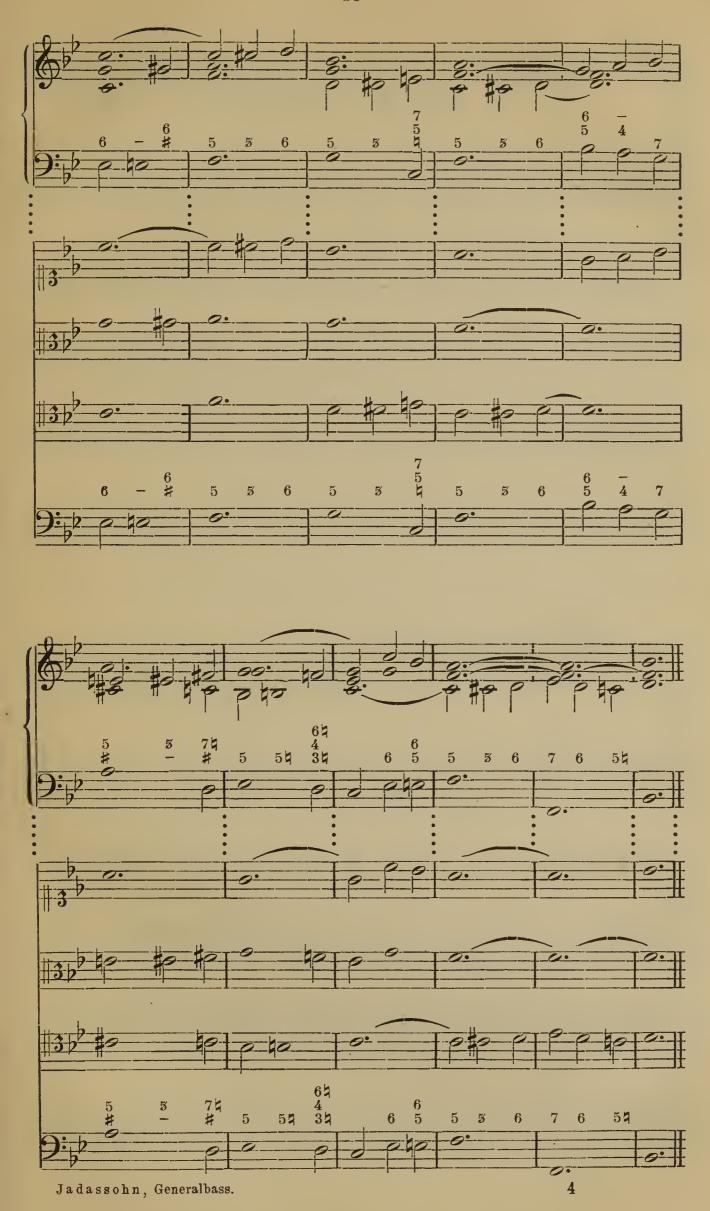


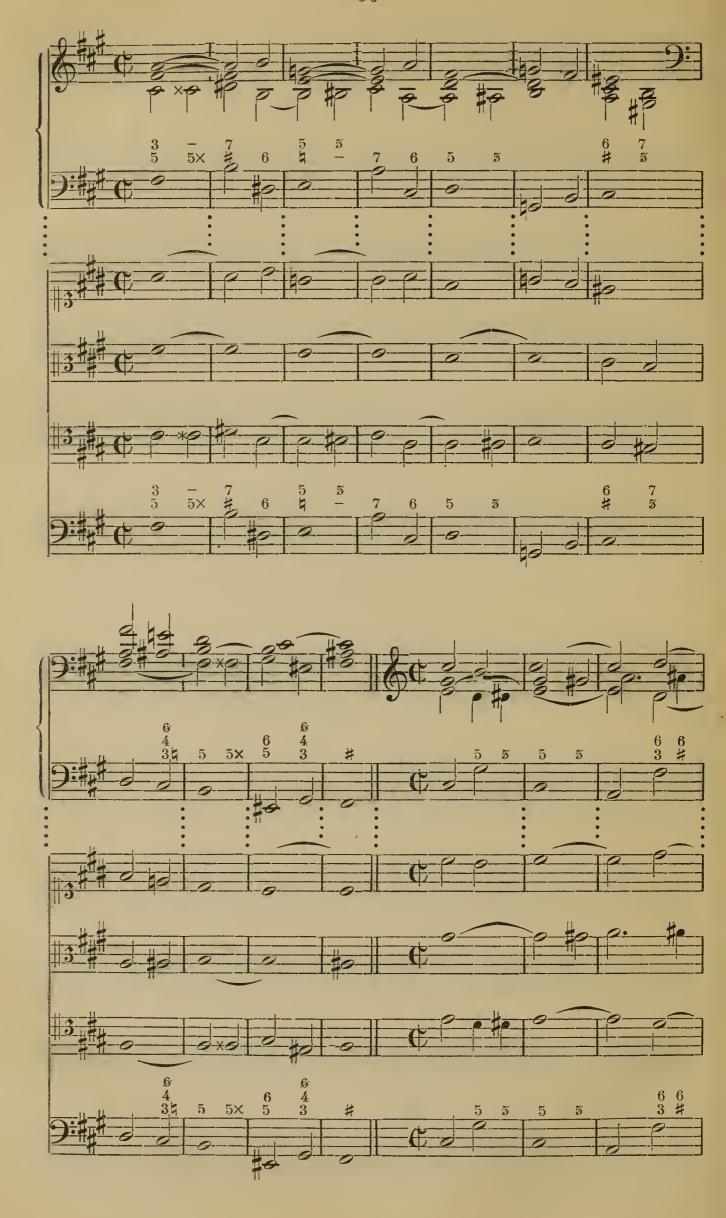


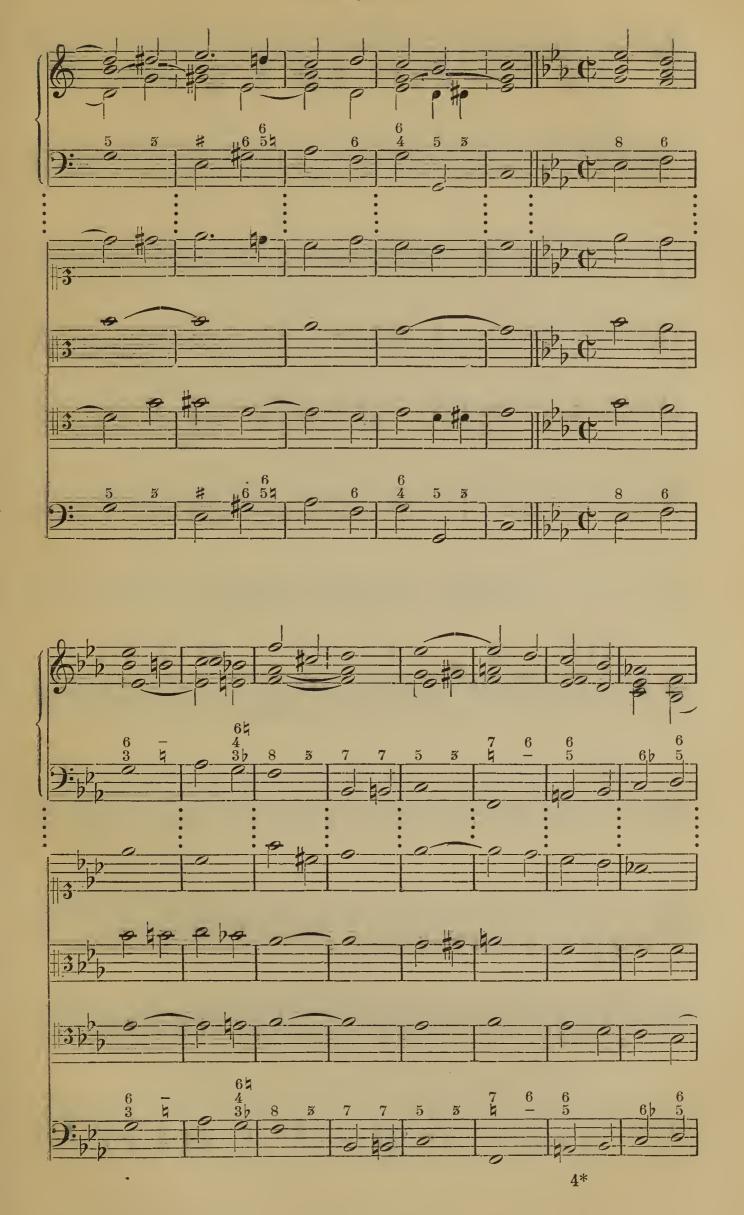


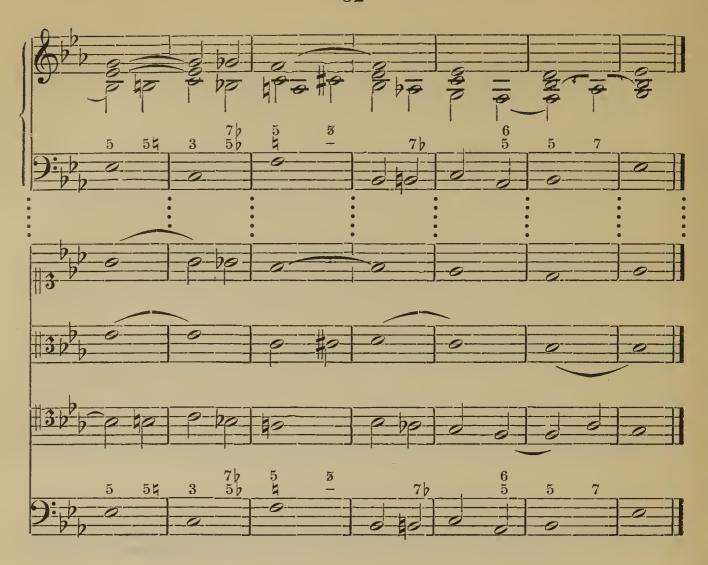


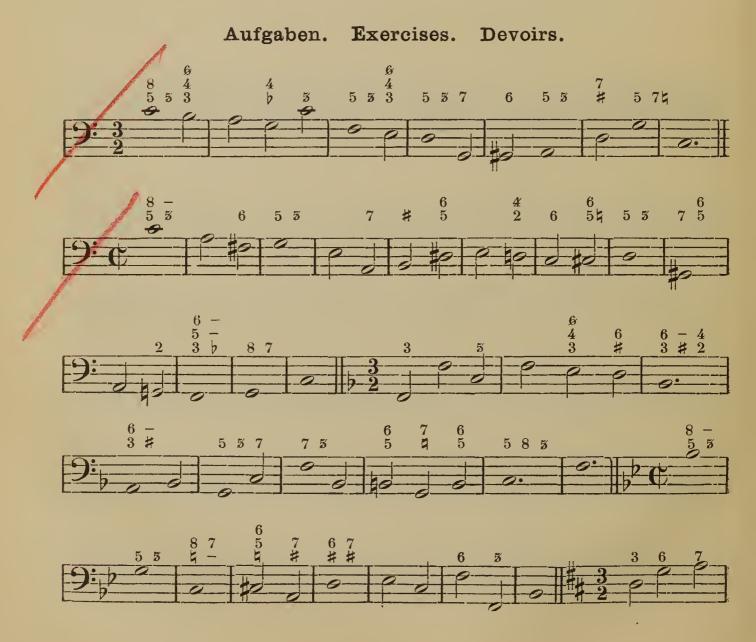


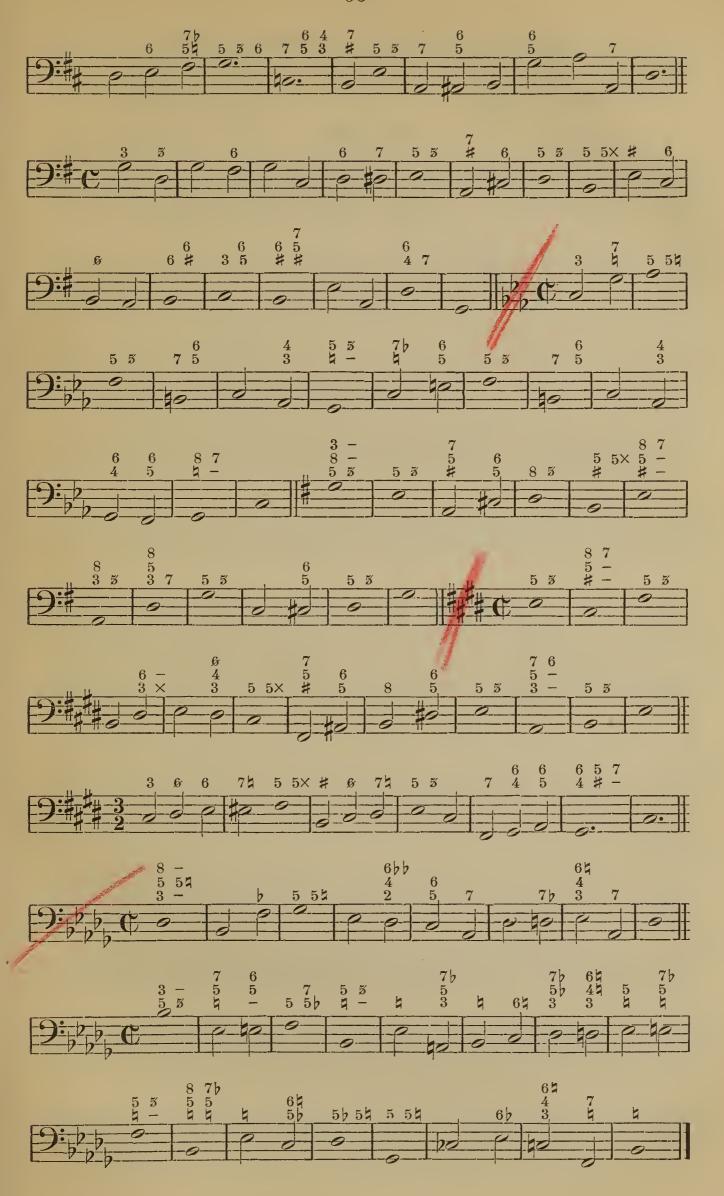






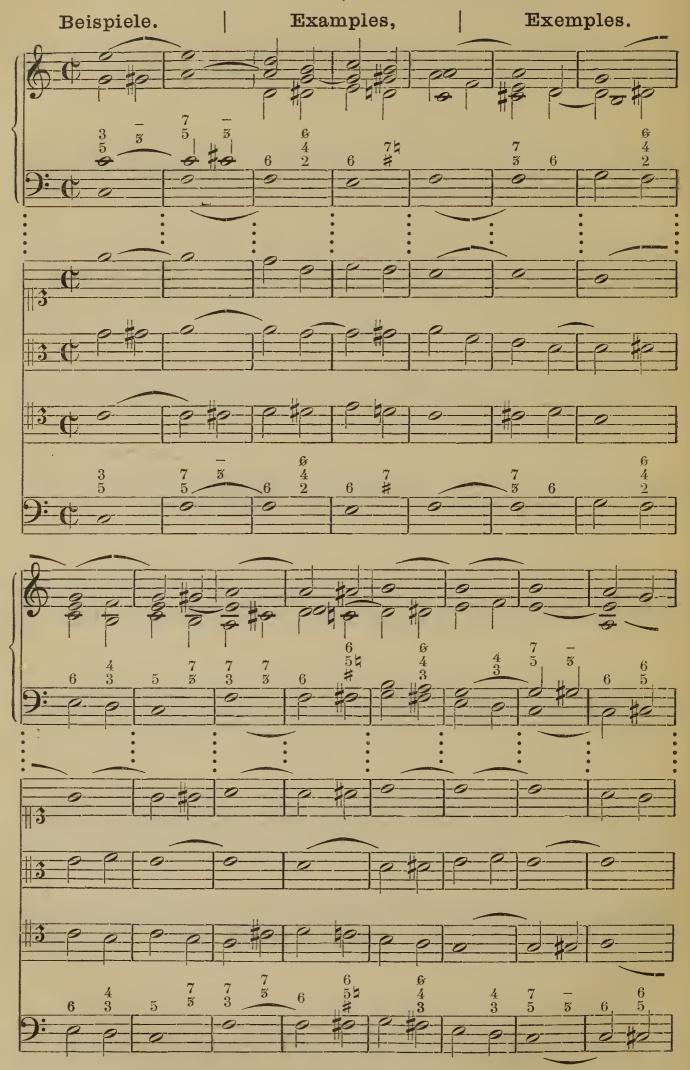


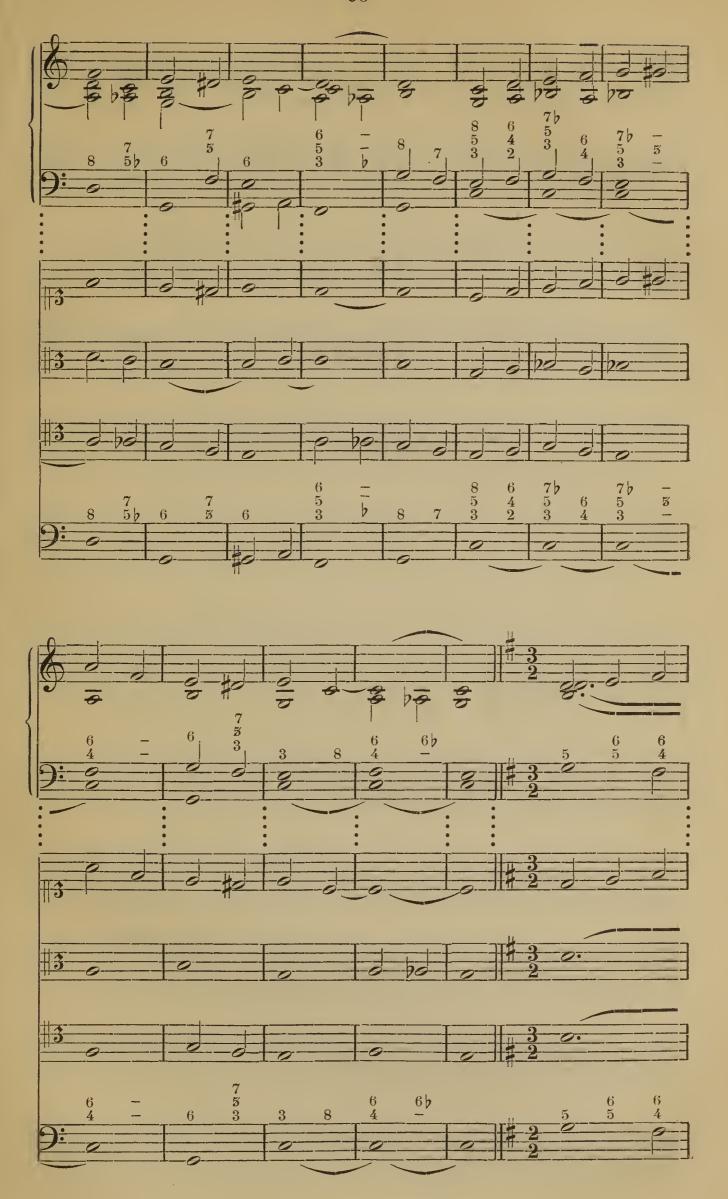


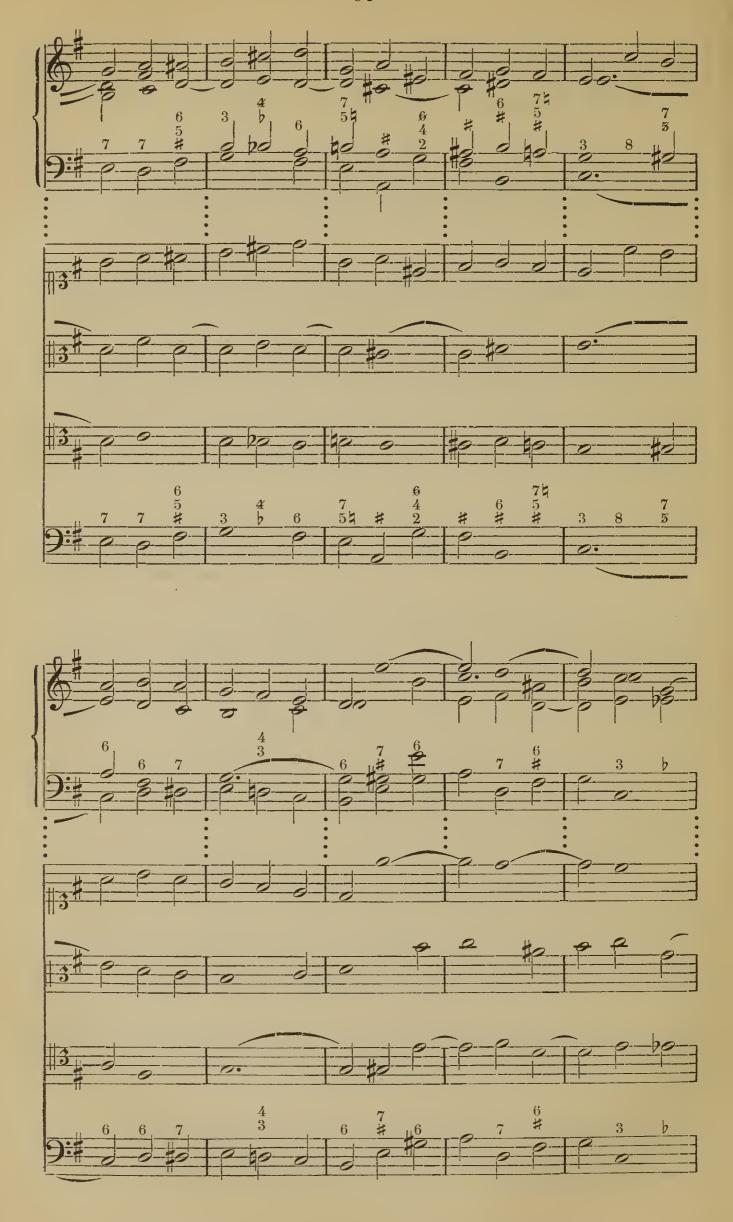


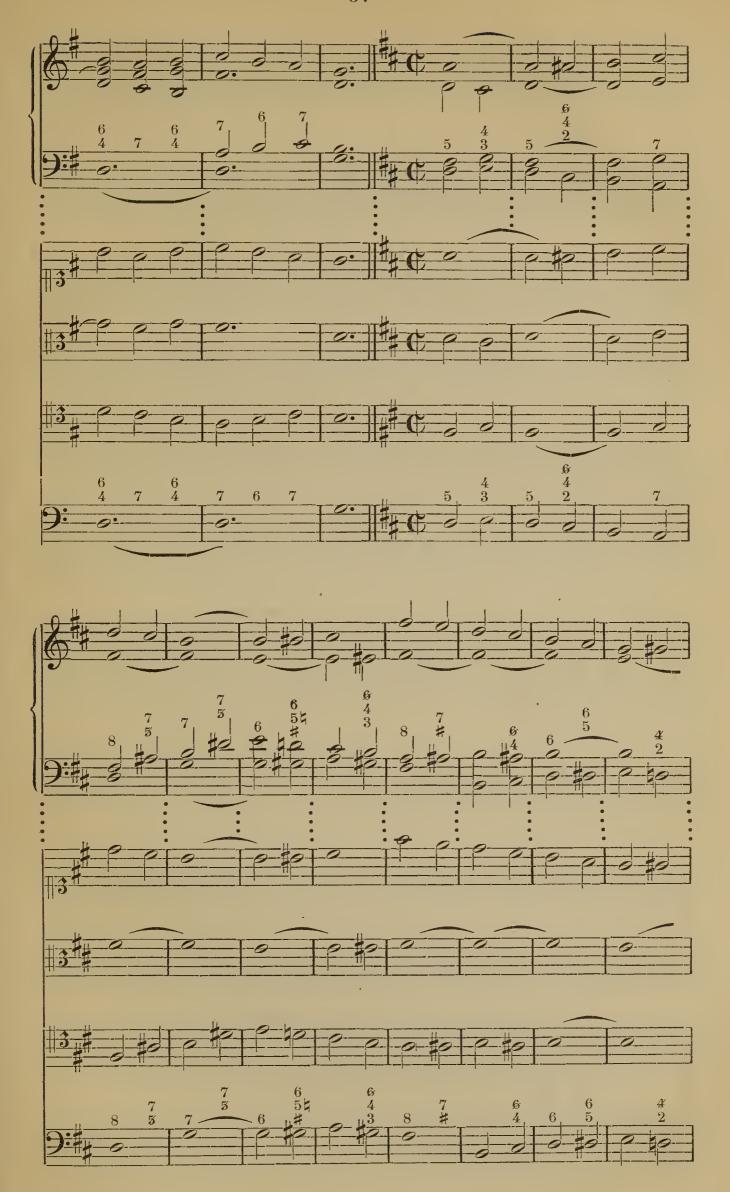
Septimenaccorde mit alterierter Quinte.

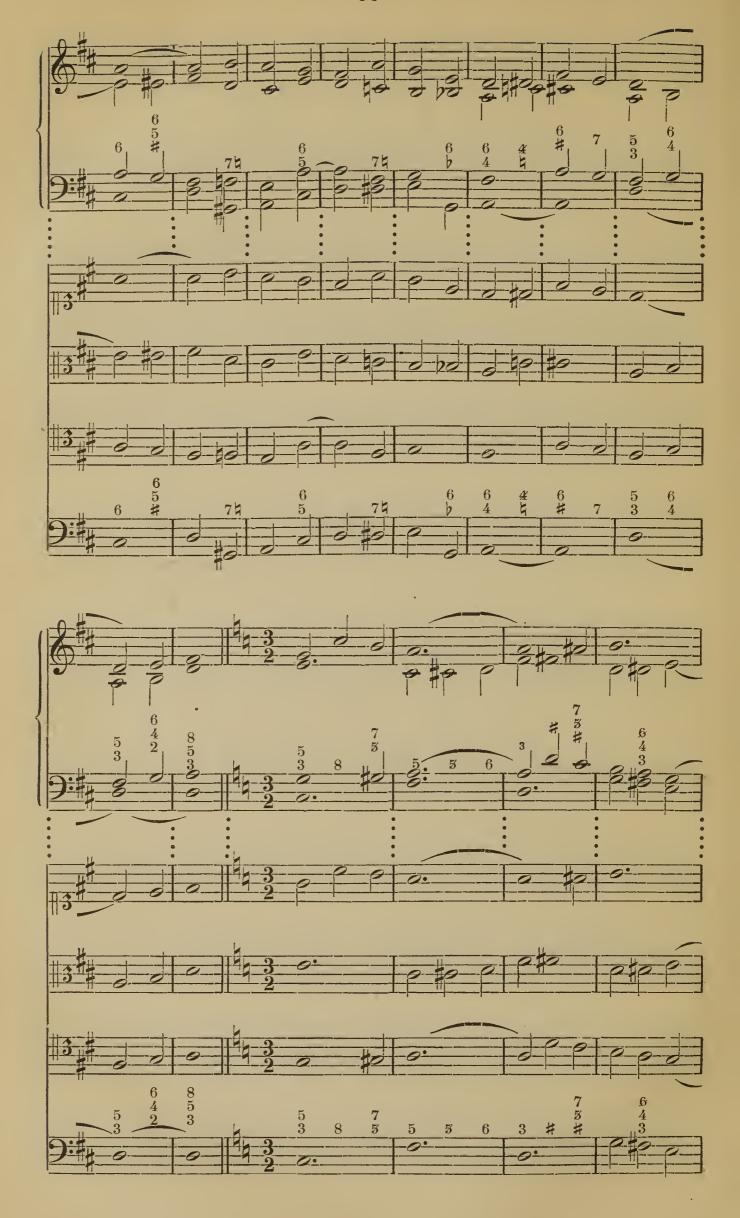
Chords of the Seventh with Les accords de septième avec altered Fifth. quinte altérée.

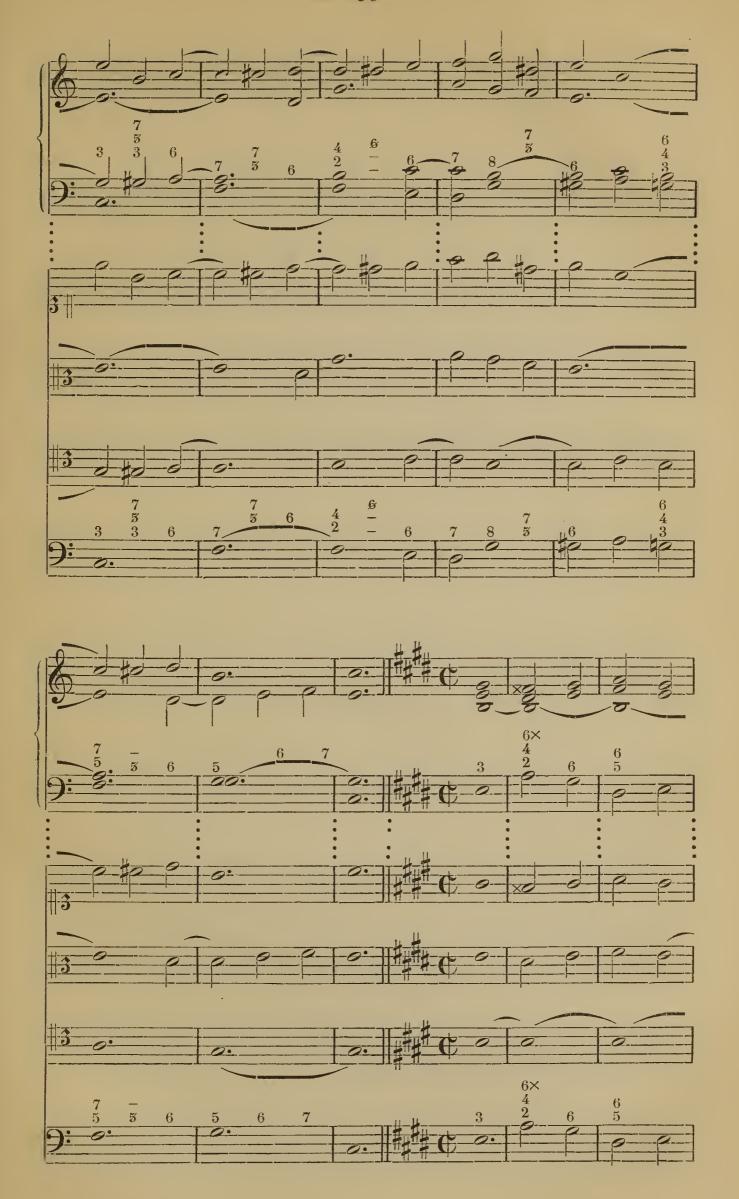


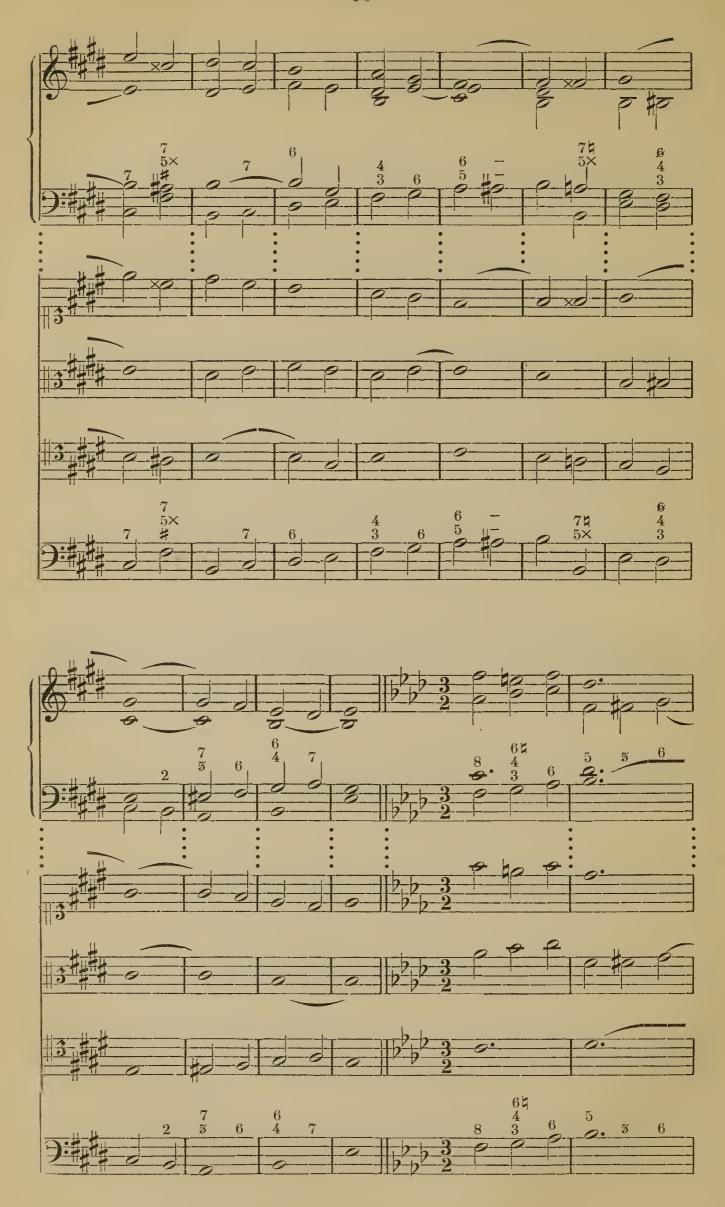


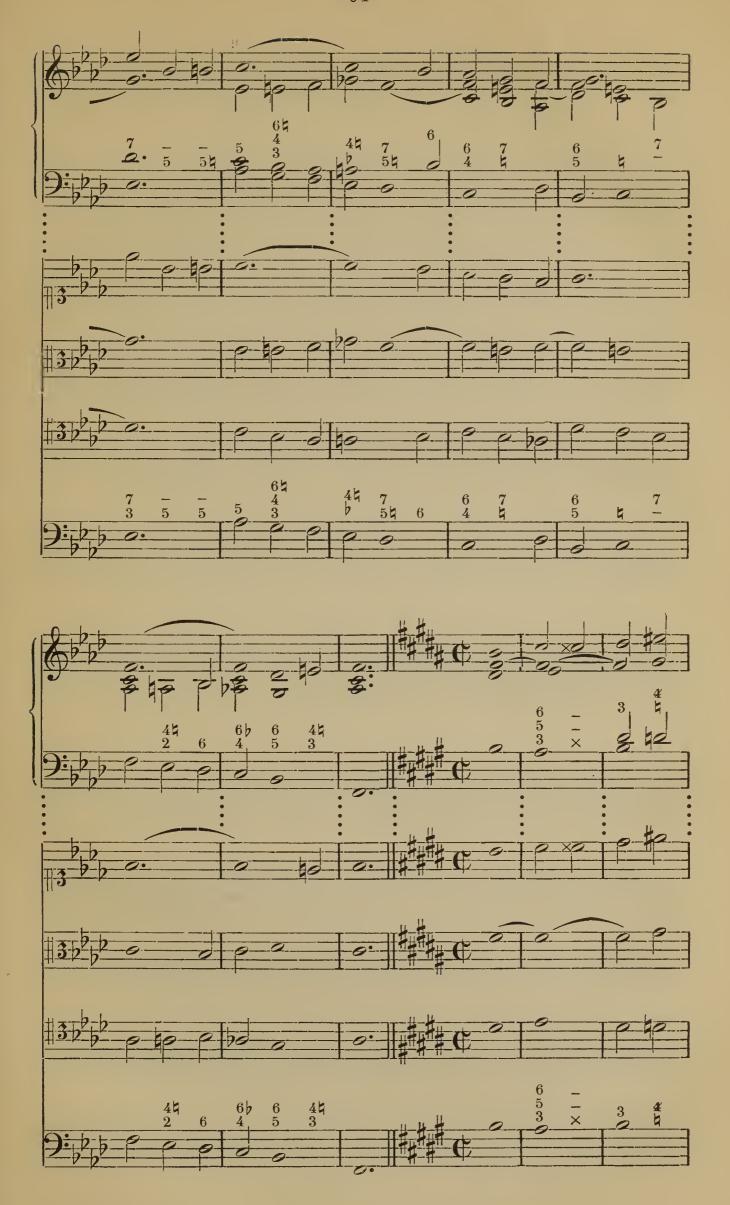


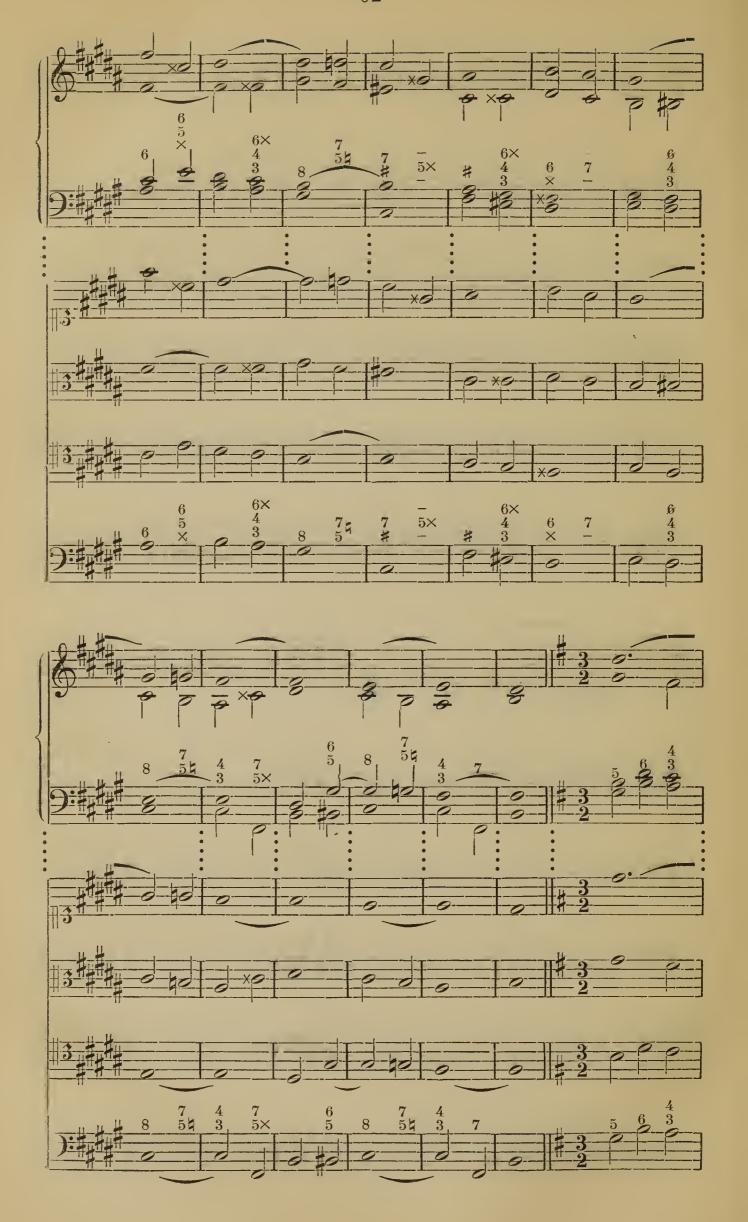


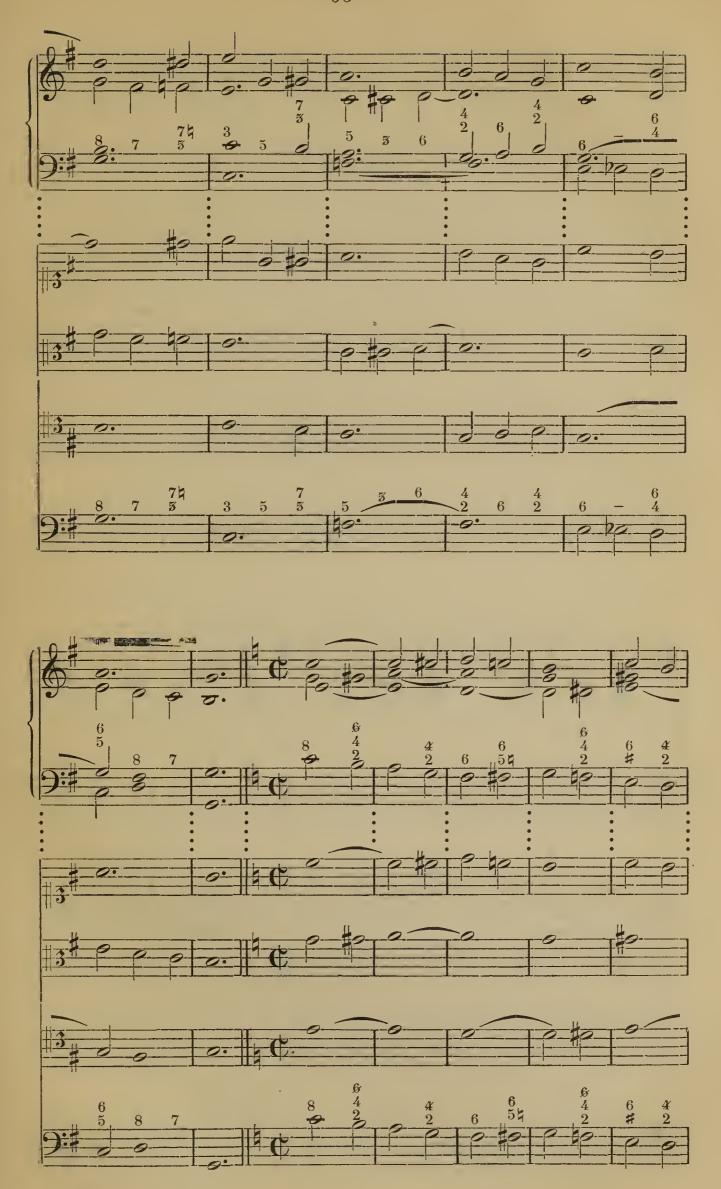


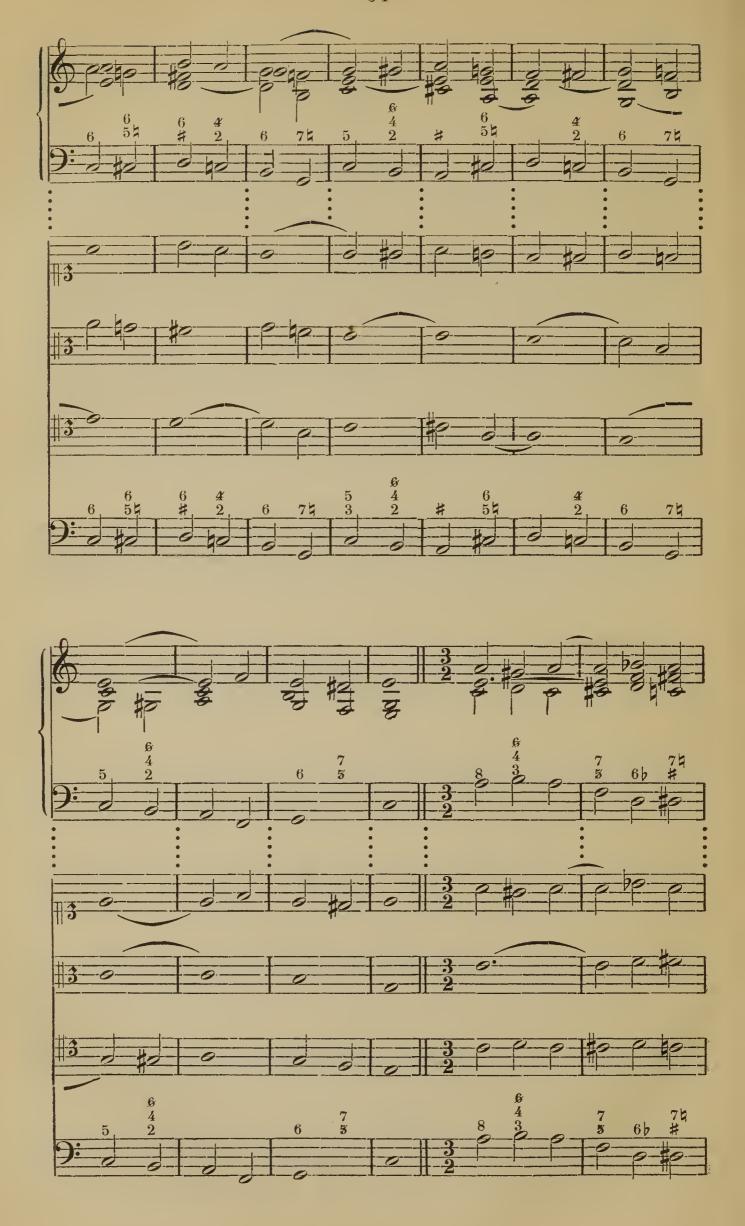


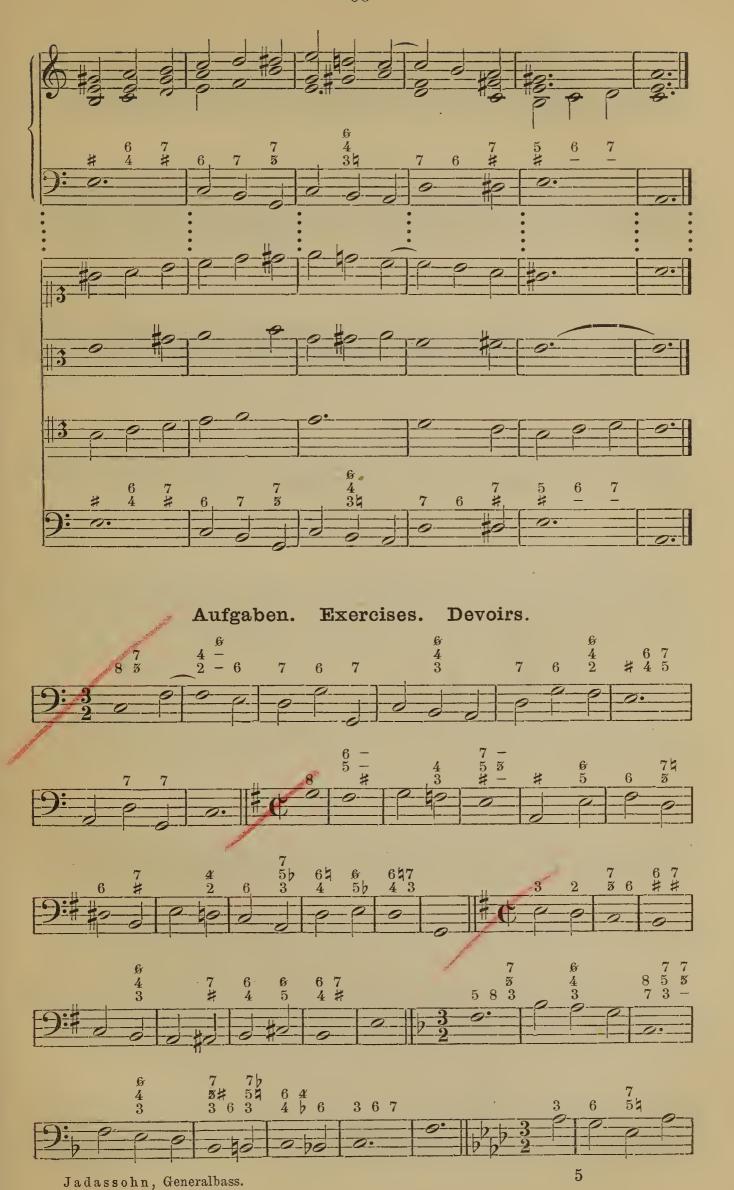


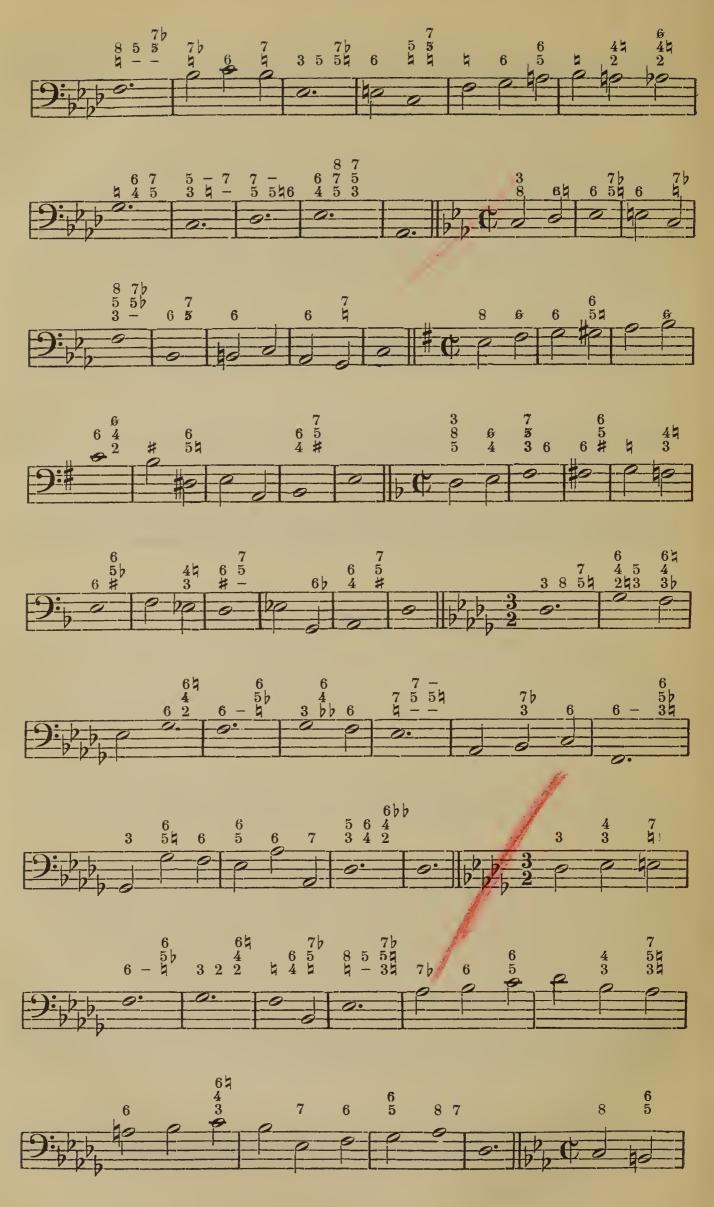


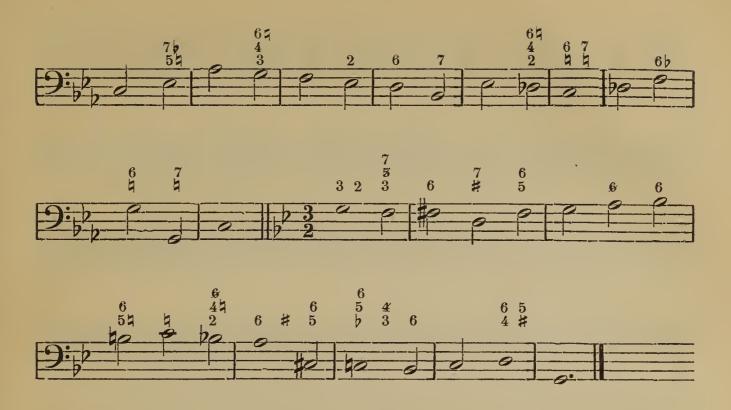




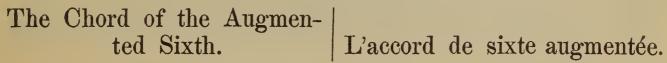


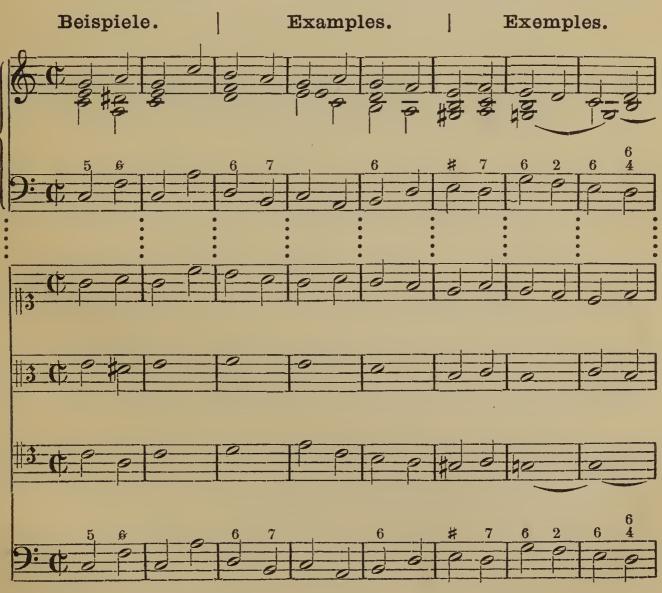


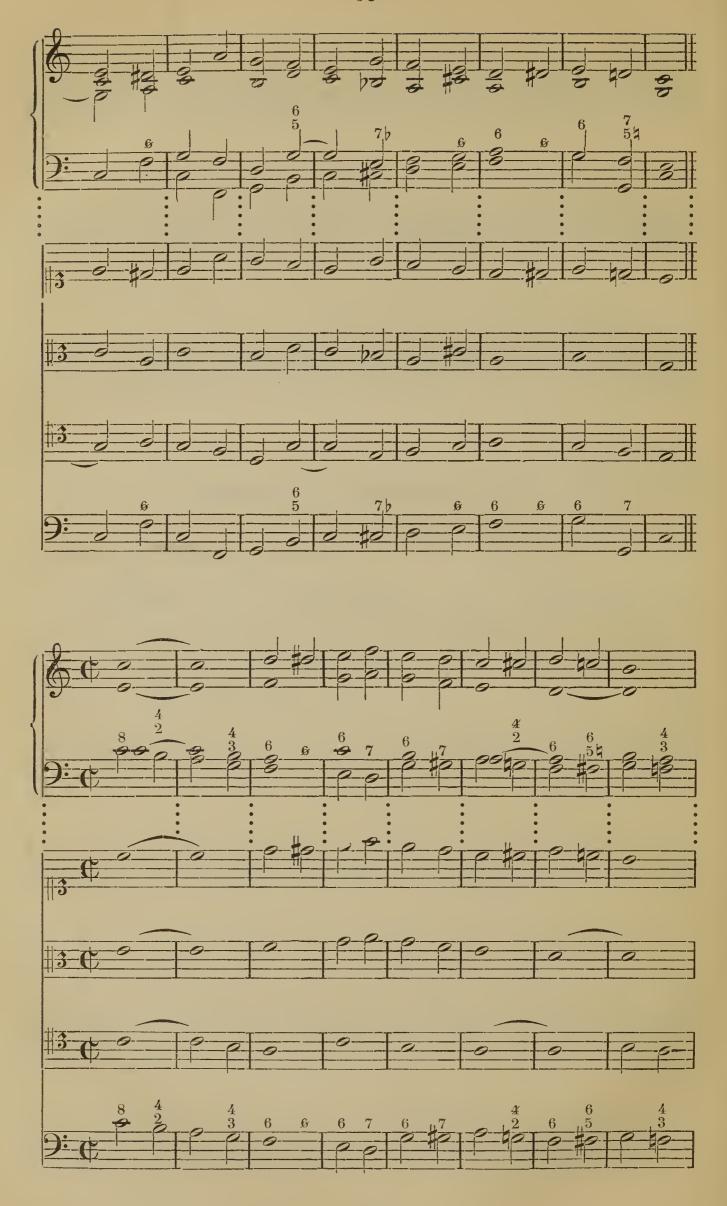


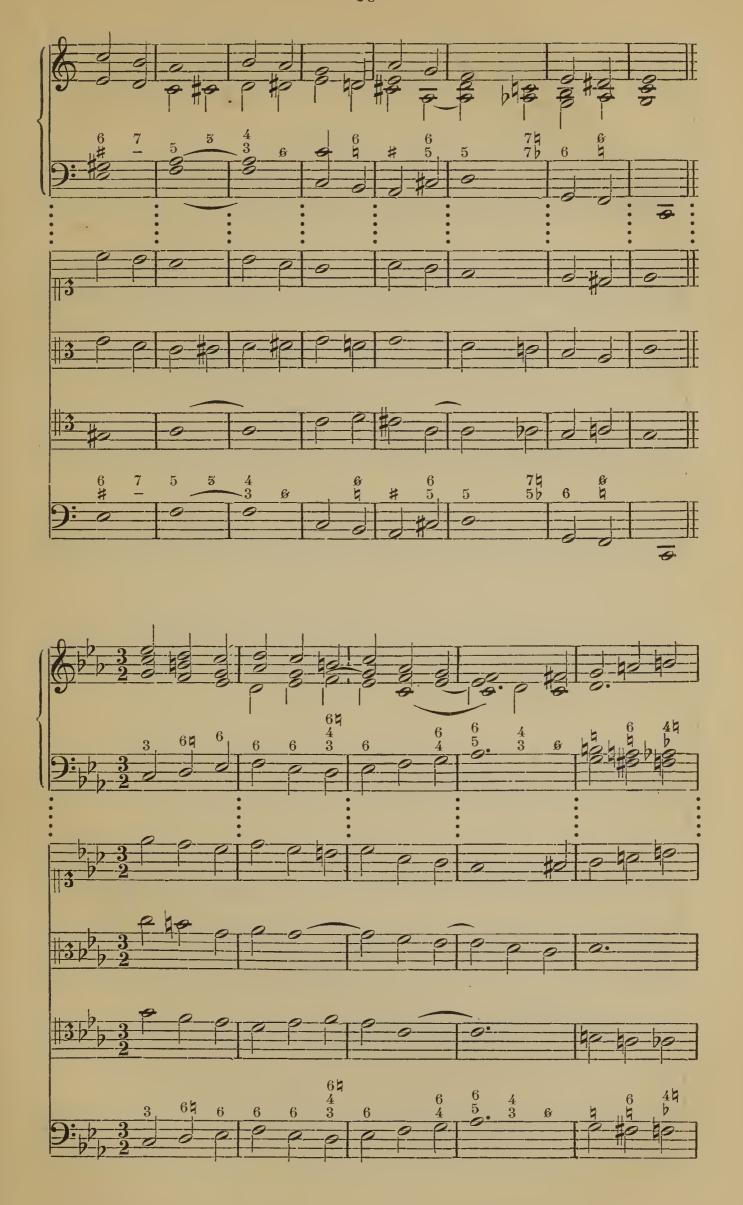


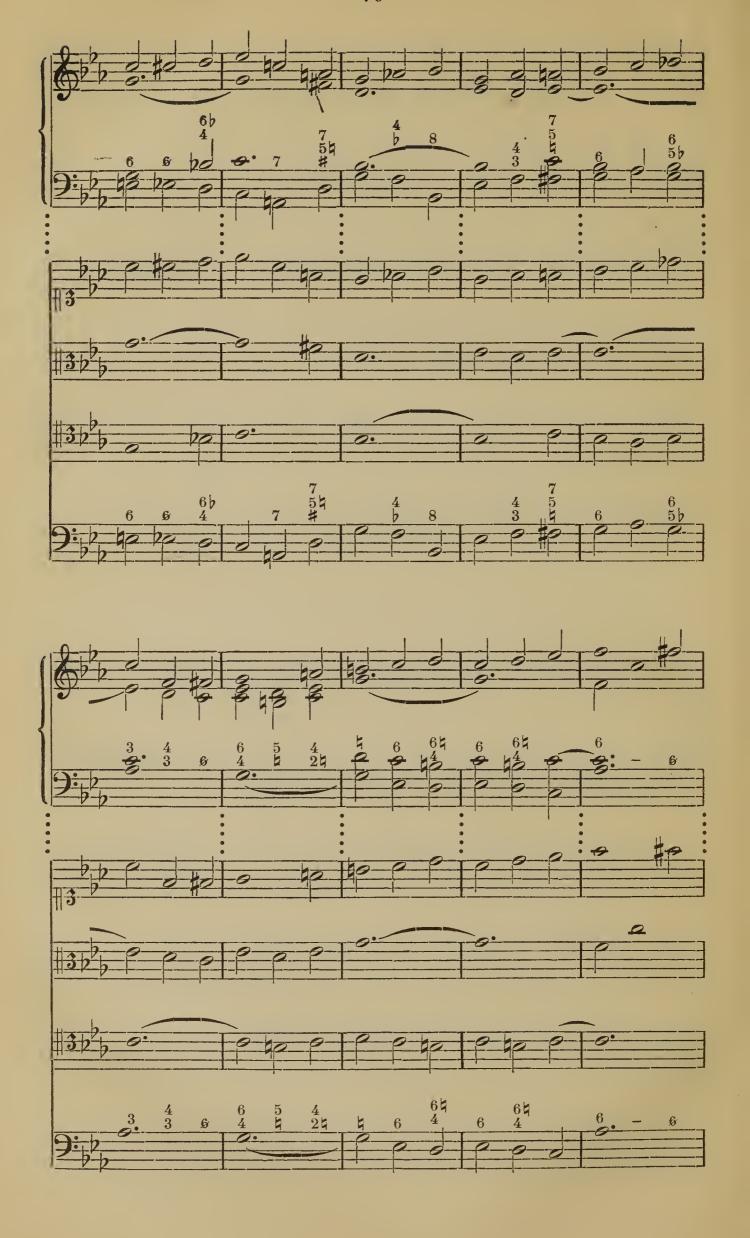
Der übermässige Sextaccord.

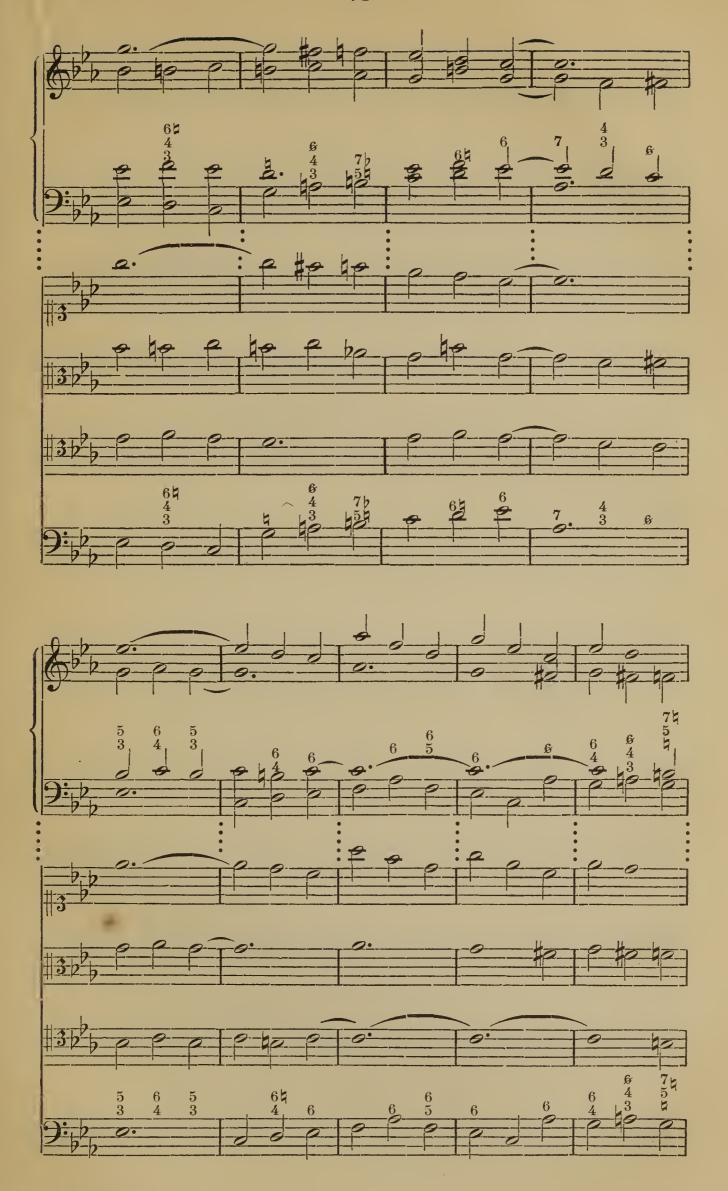


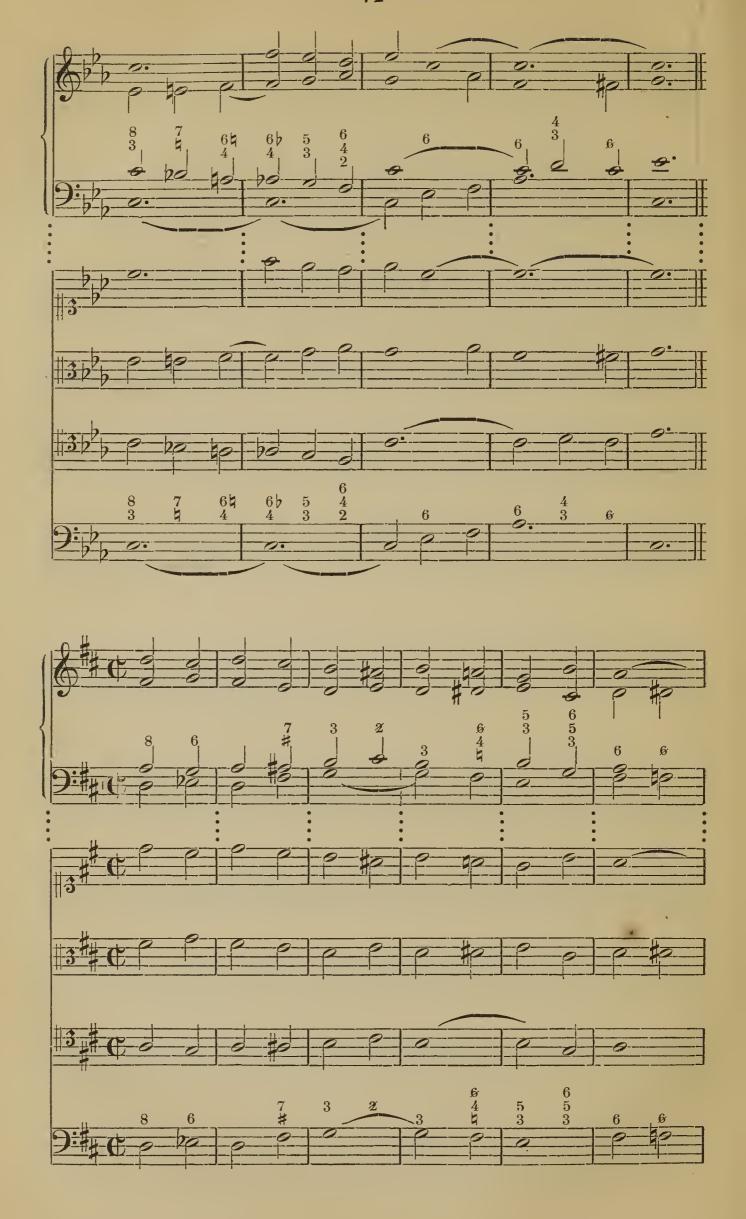


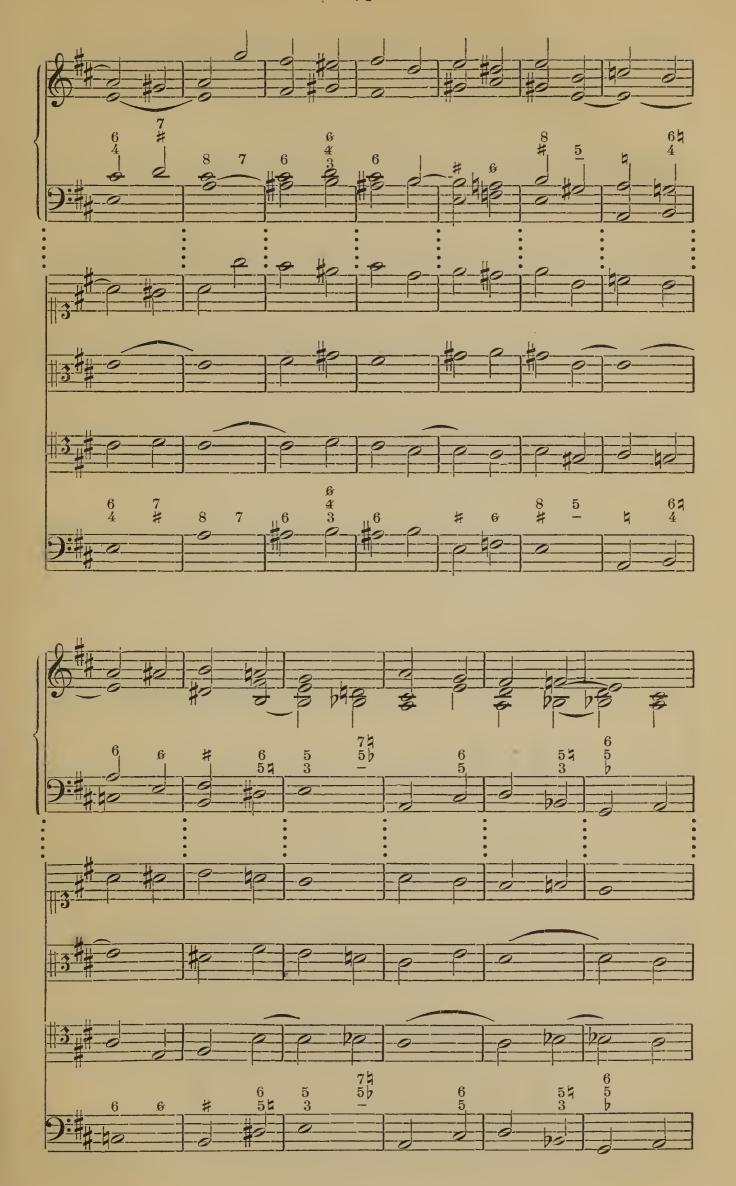


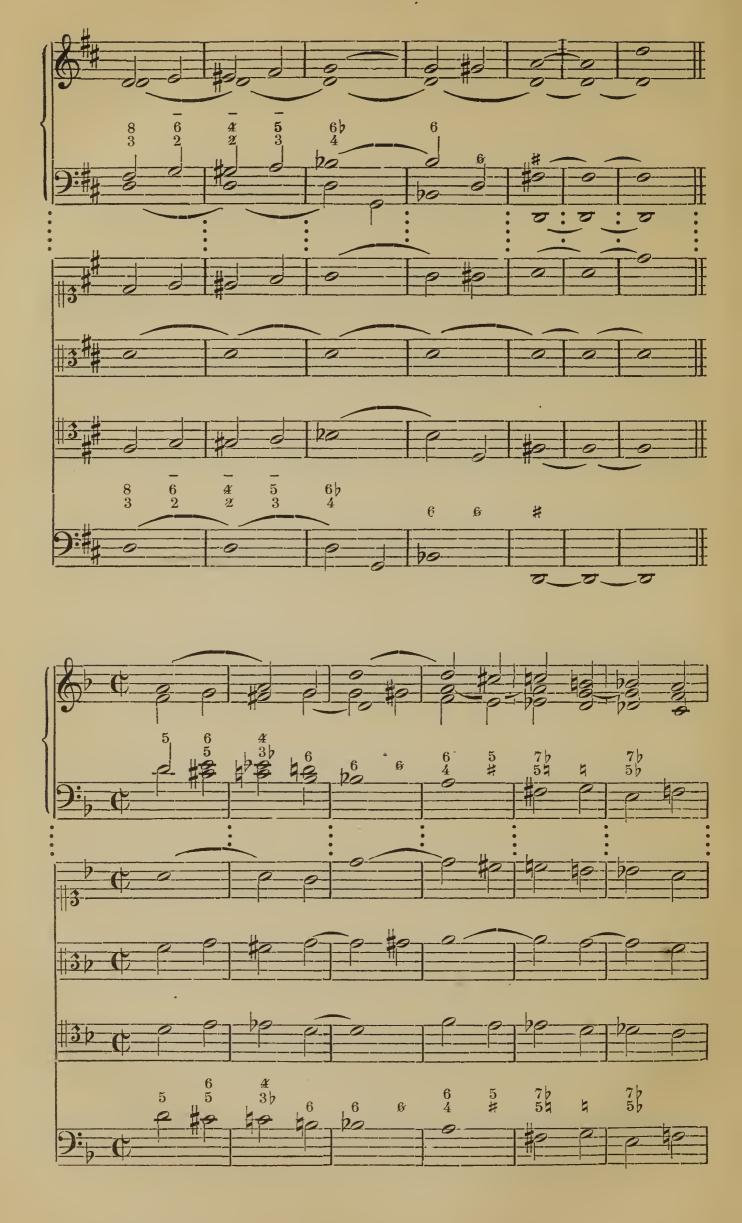


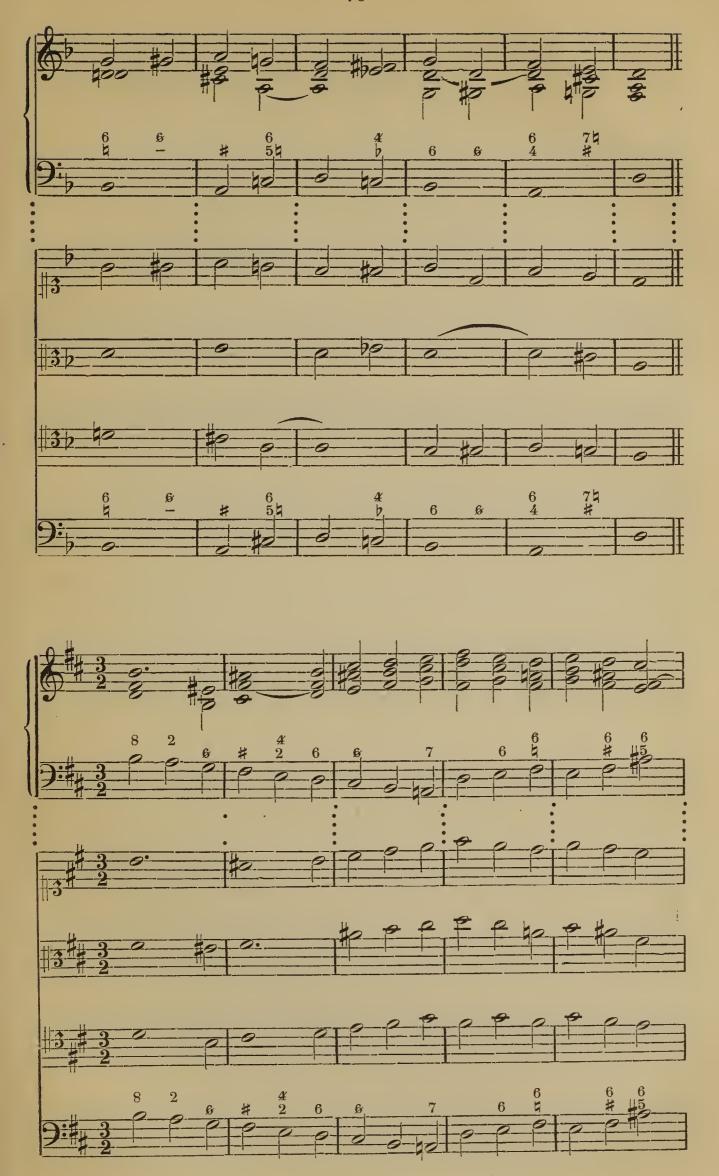


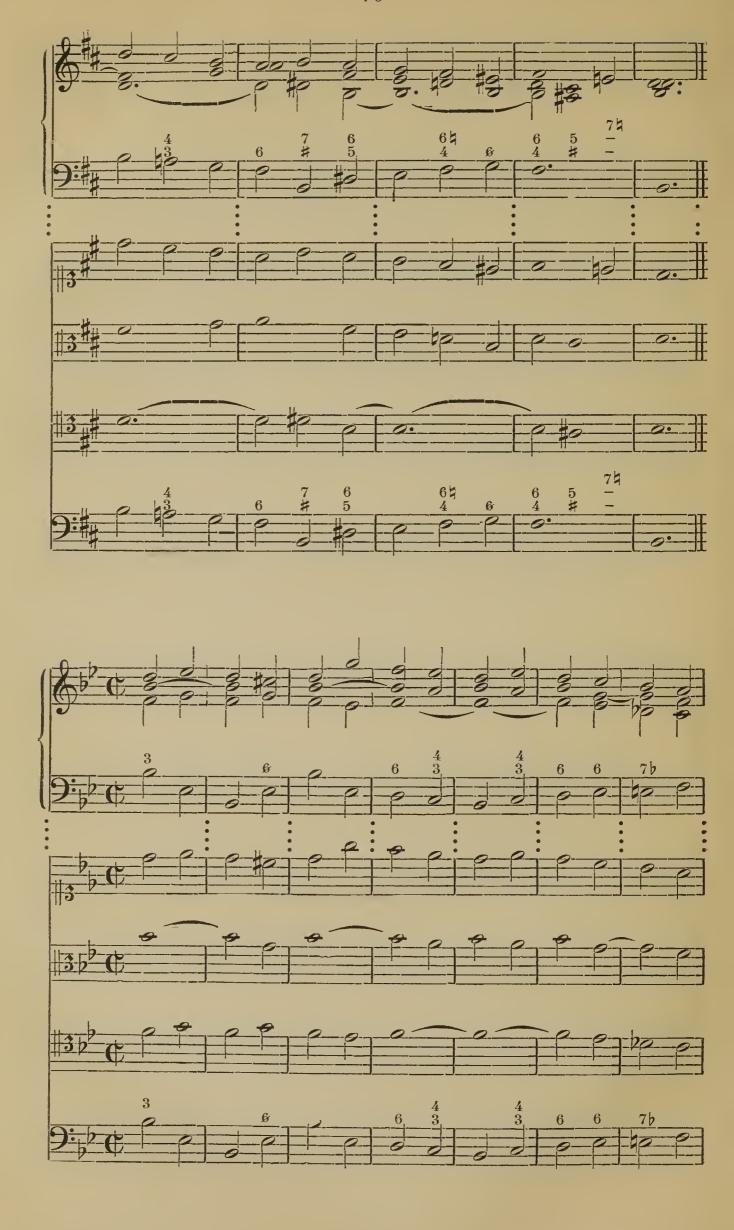


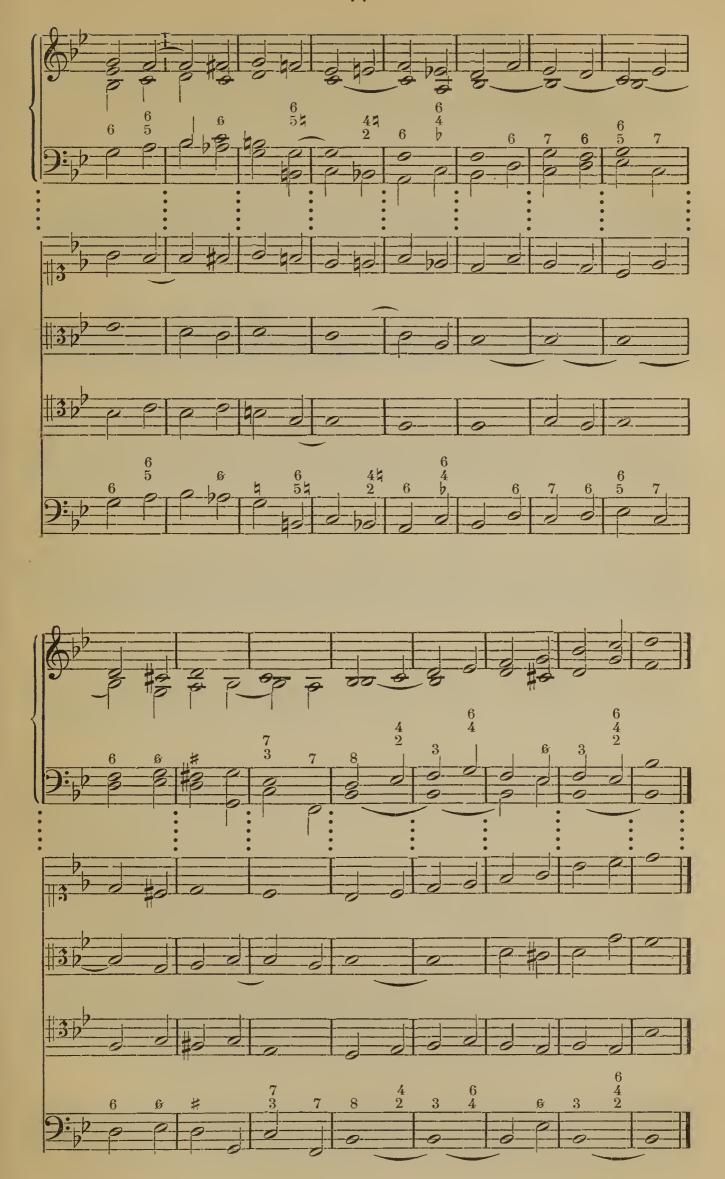




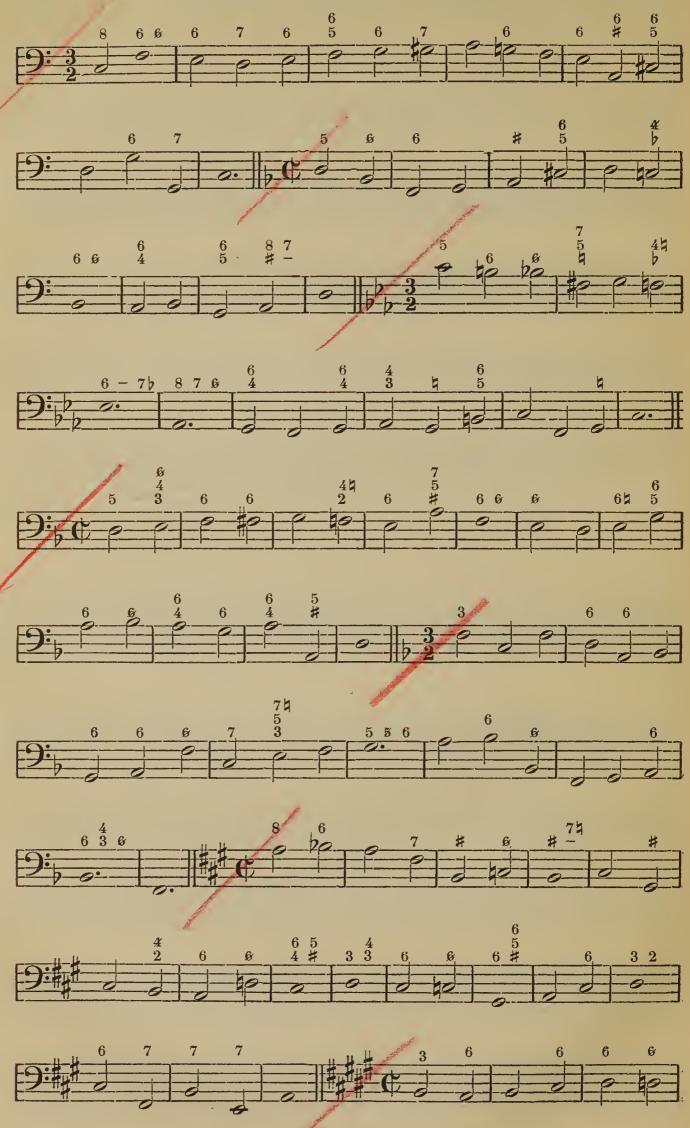


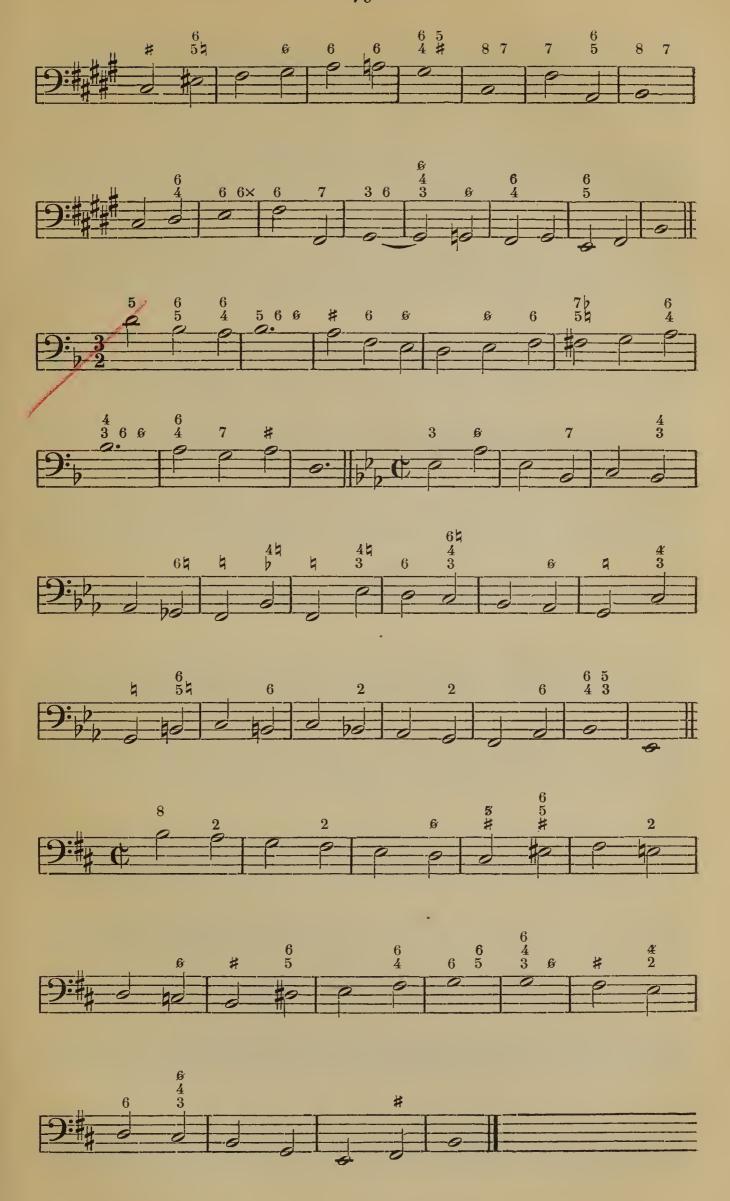






Aufgaben. Exercises. Devoirs.

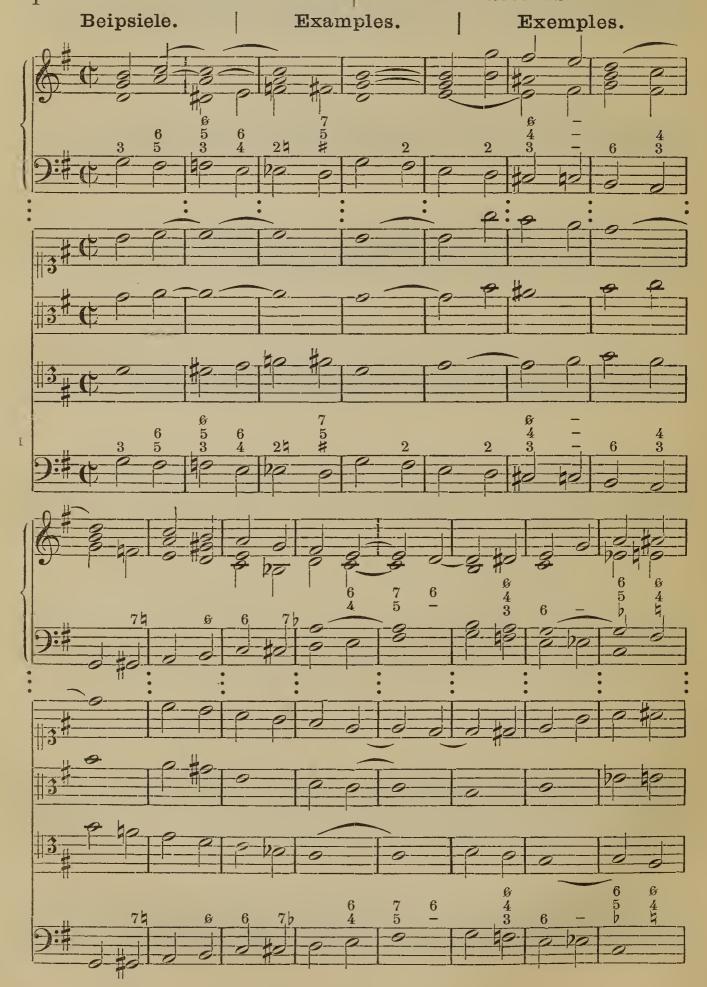


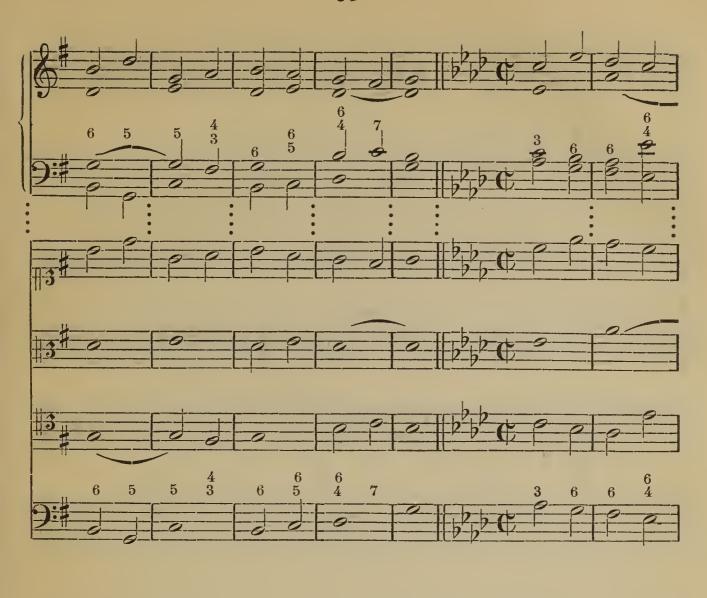


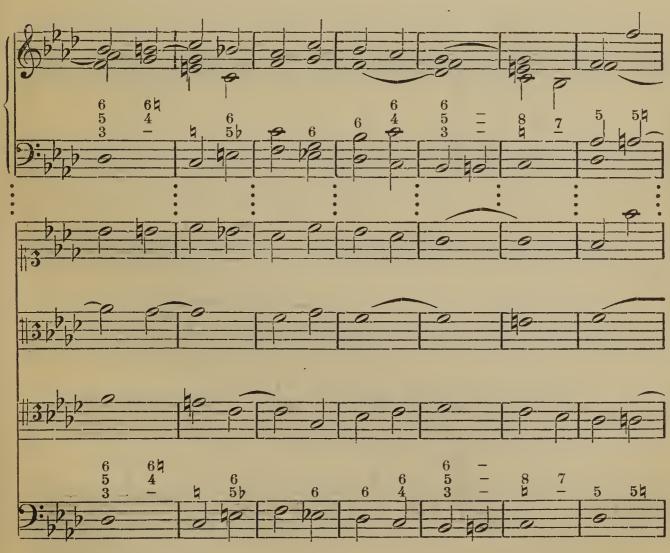
Der übermässige Terz-Quart- und Terz-Quint-Sextaccord und andere Stellungen dieser Accorde.

The Chord of the Augmented Sixt-Fourth and Third et sixte augmentée et l'accord and of the Augmented Sixt-Fifth and Third and others positions of these Chords.

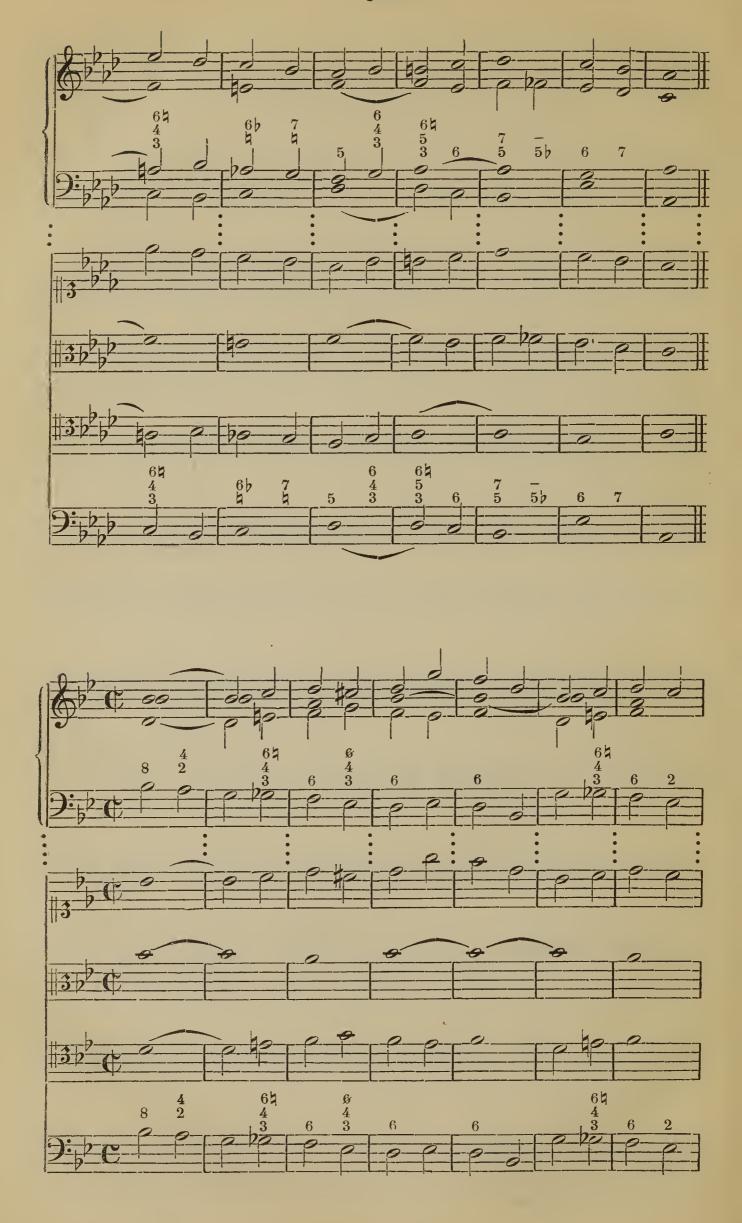
L'accord de tierce, quarte de quinte et sixte augmentée et autres positions de accords.

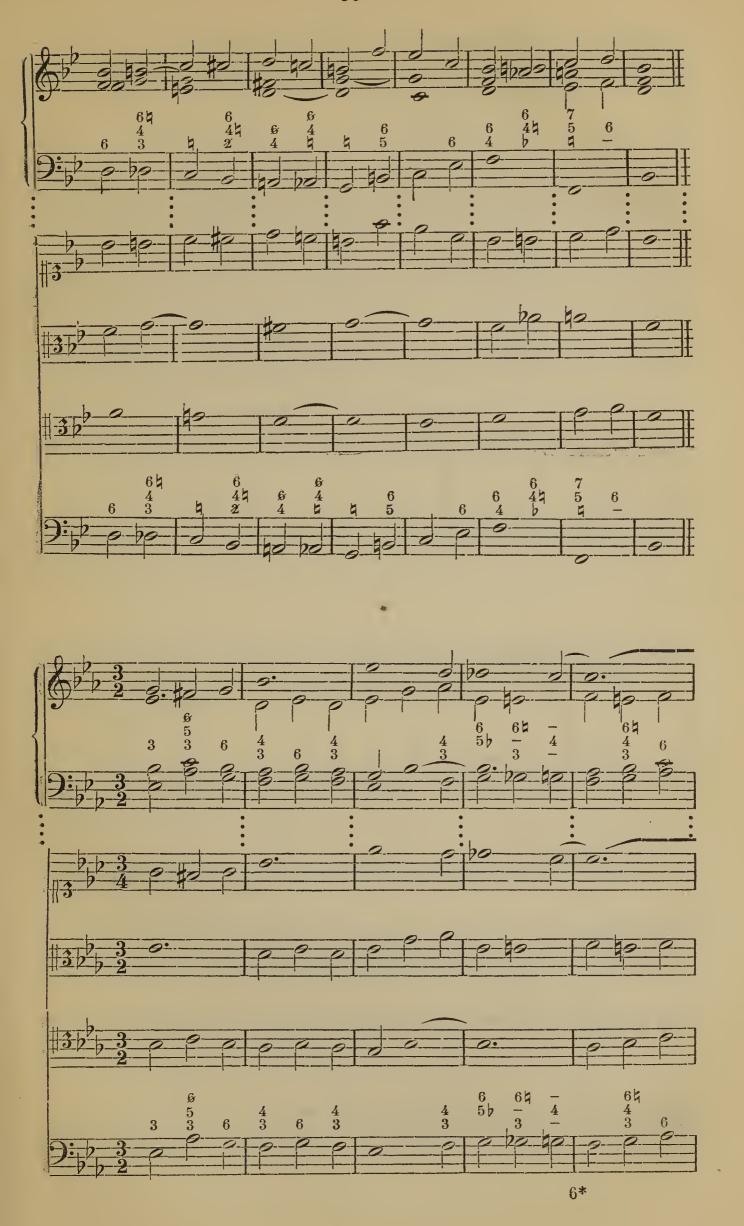


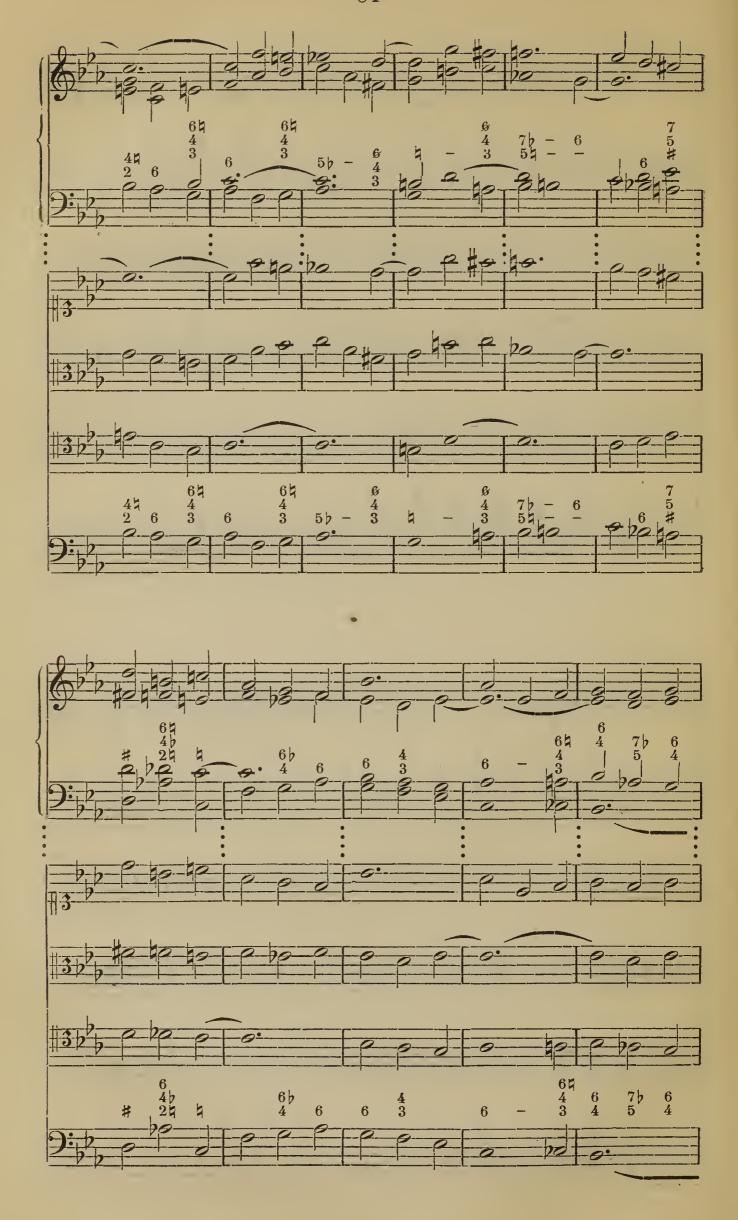


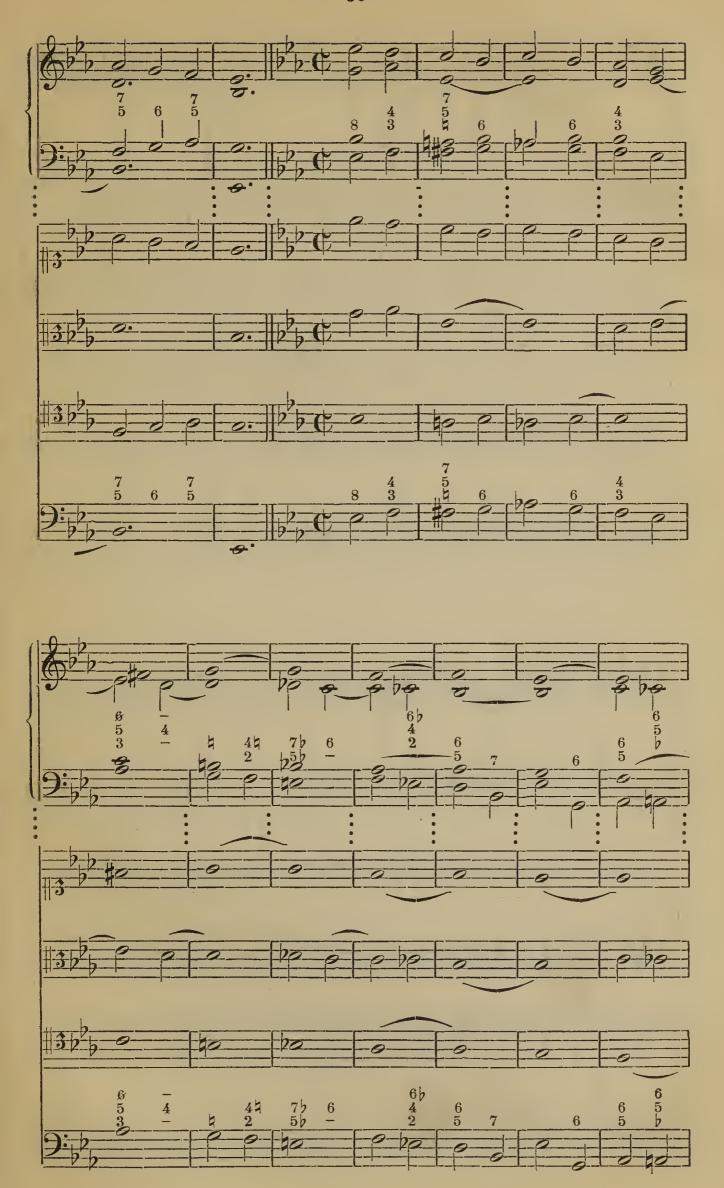


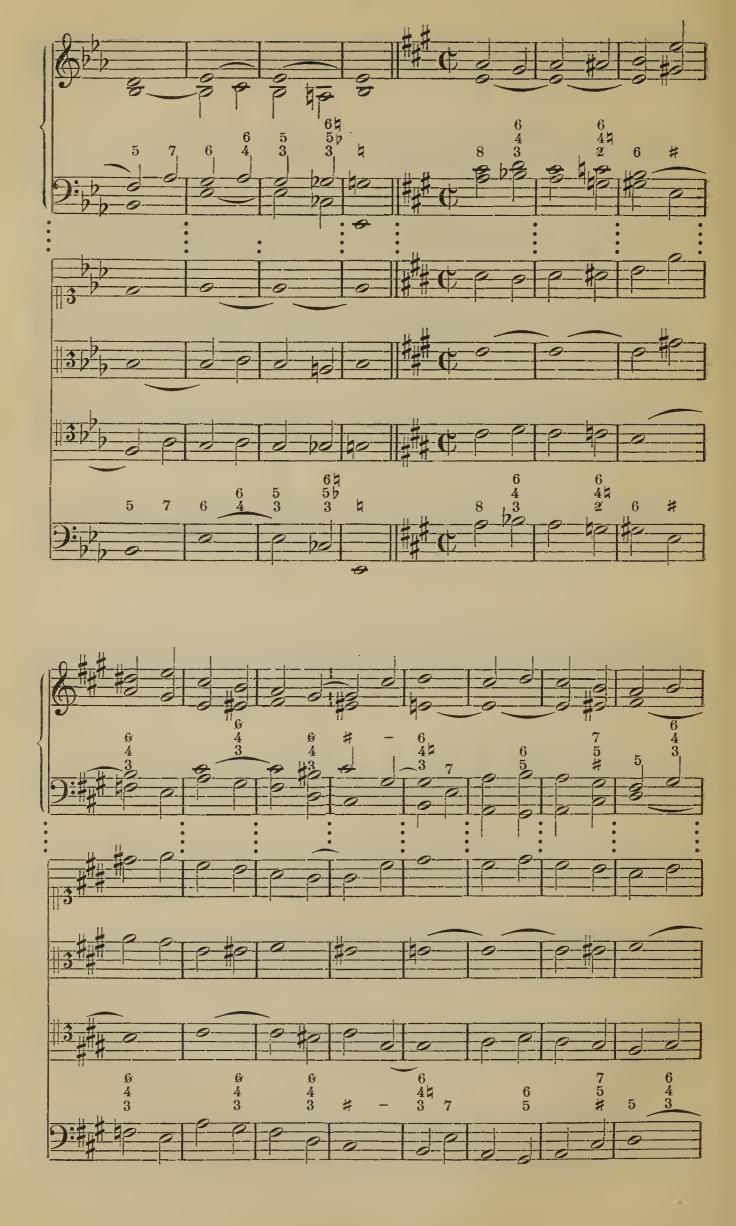
Jadassohn, Generalbass.

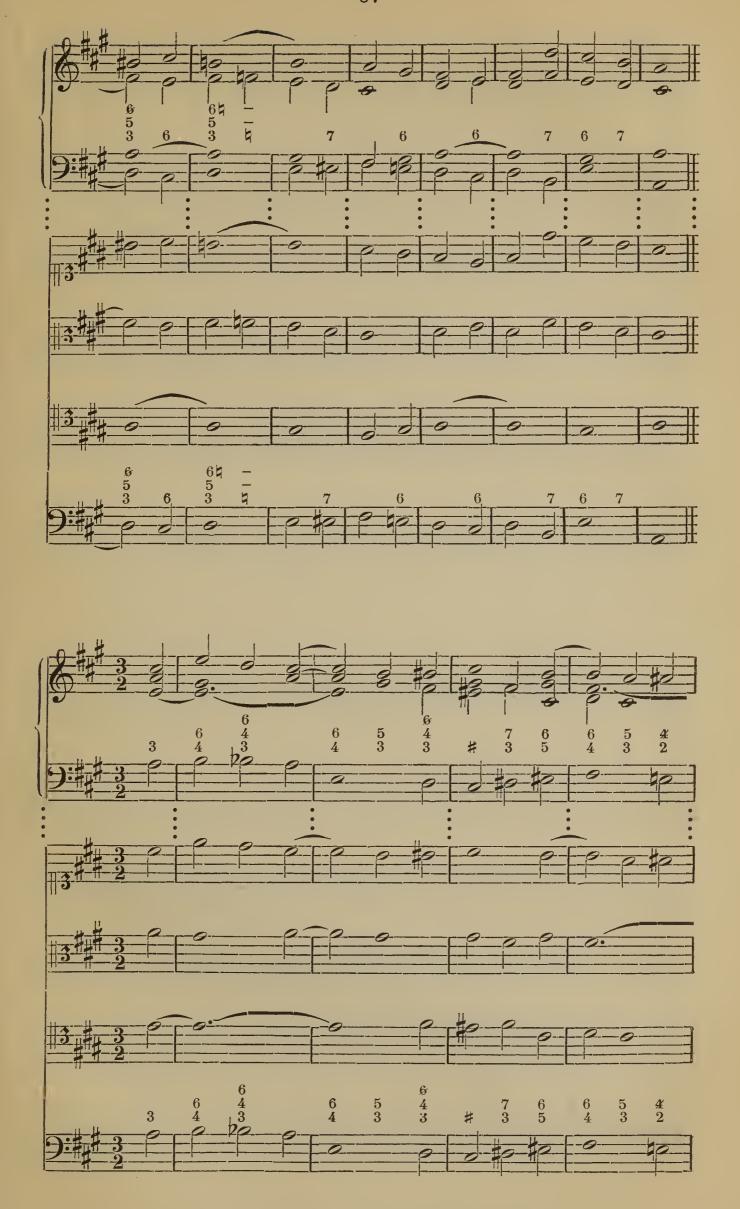


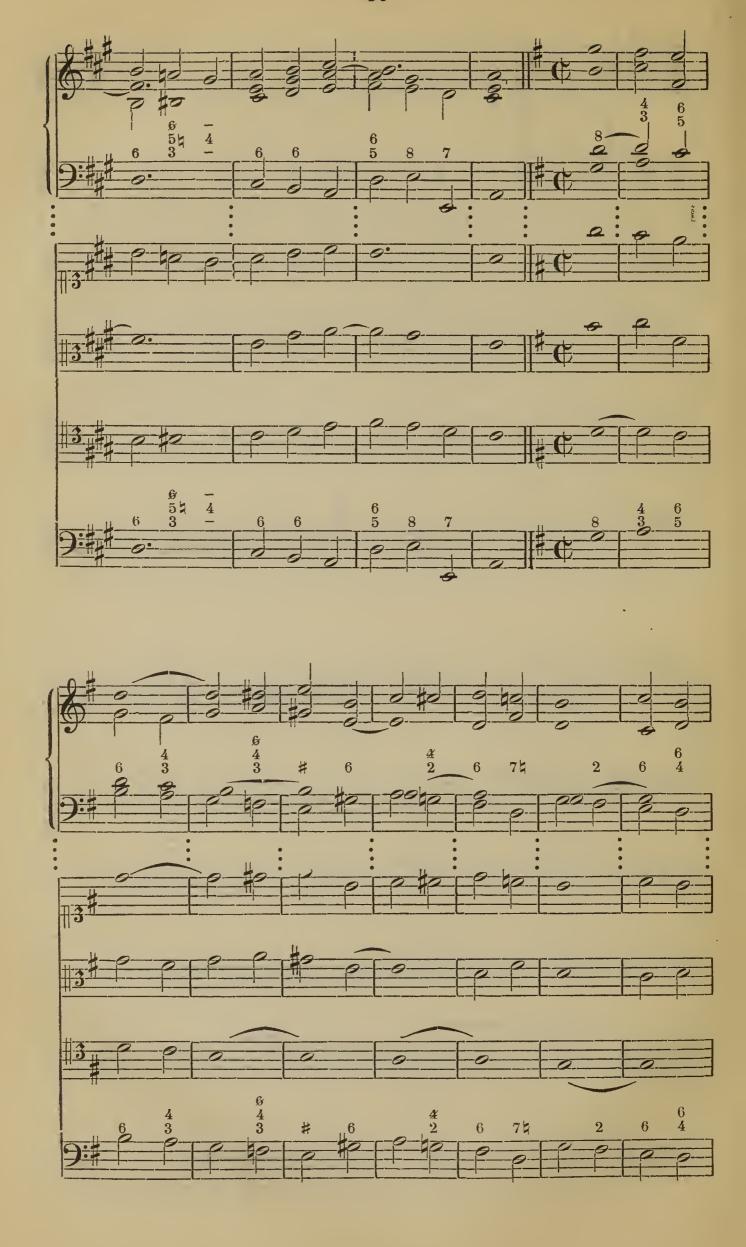


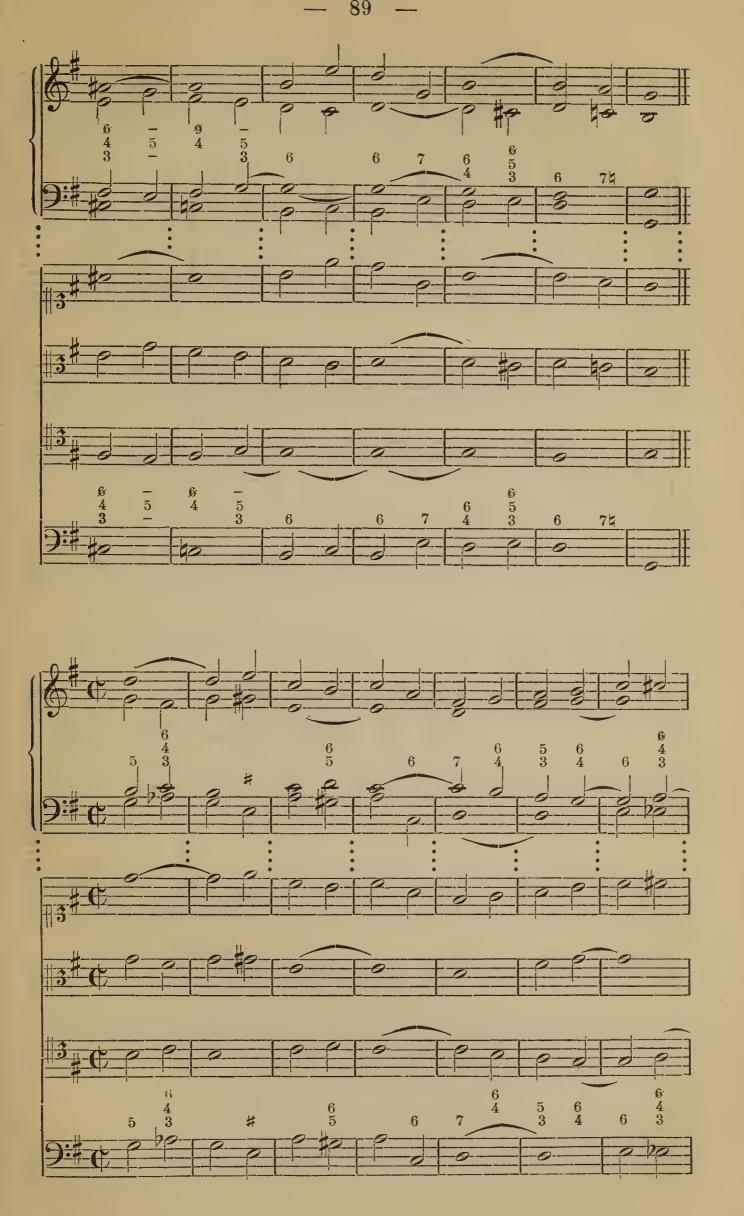


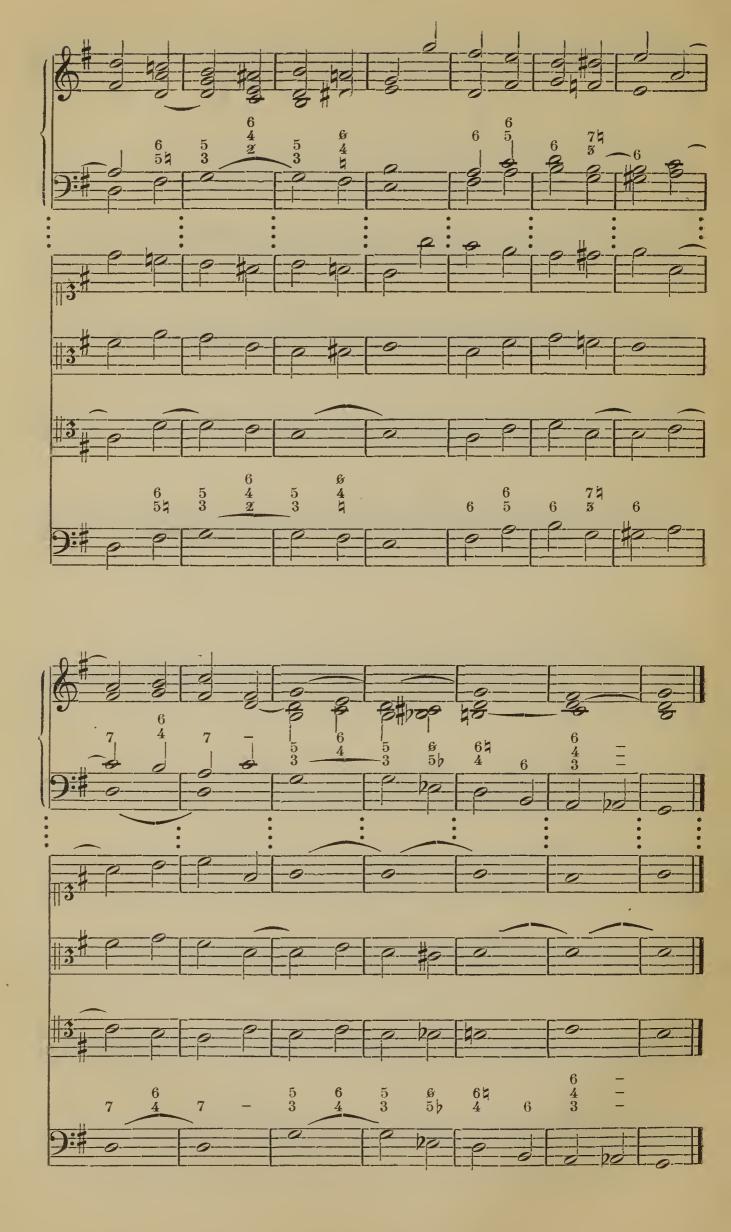




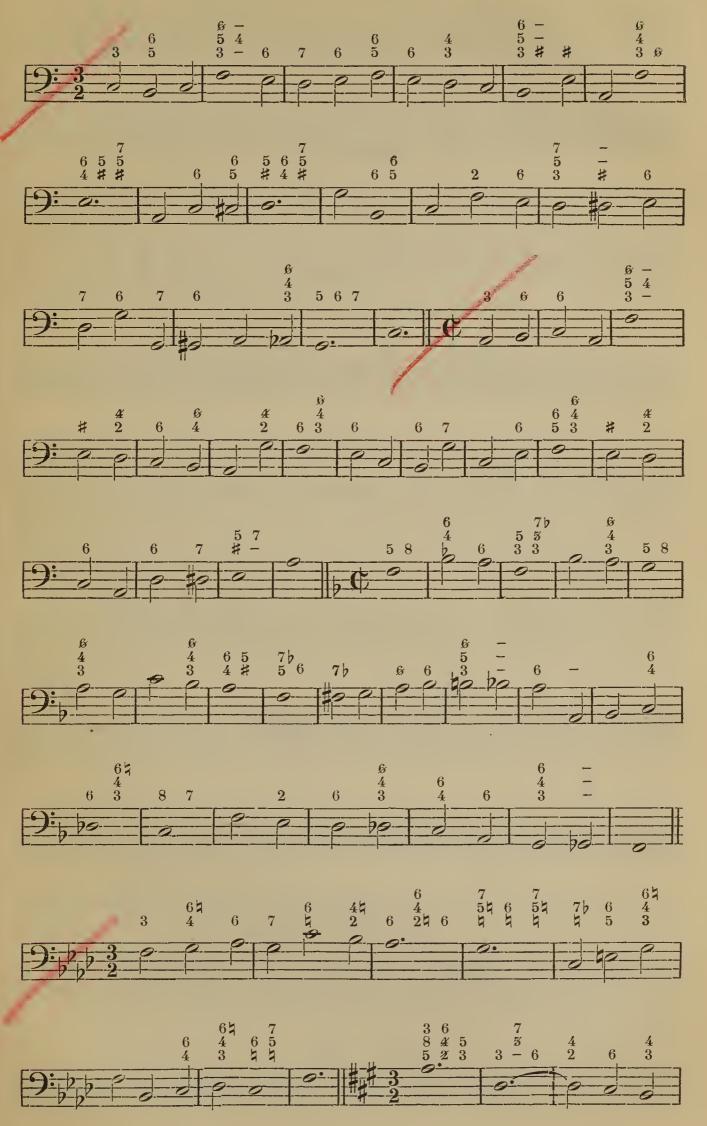


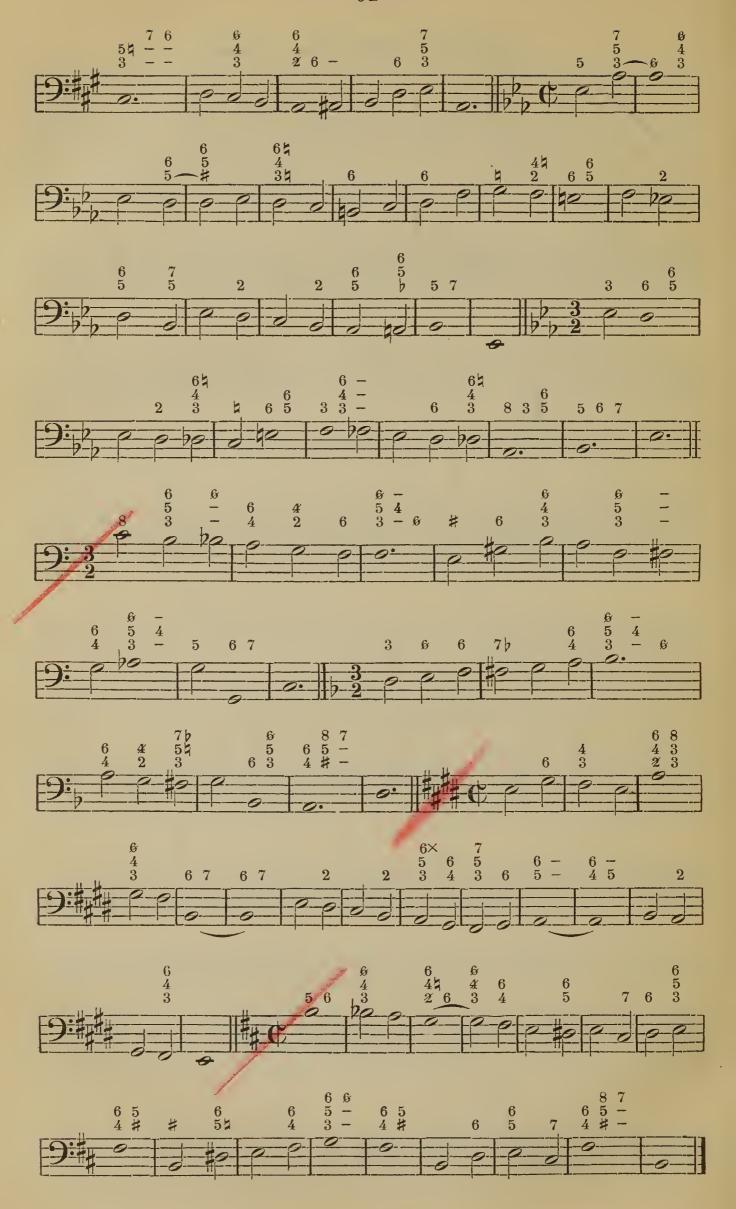




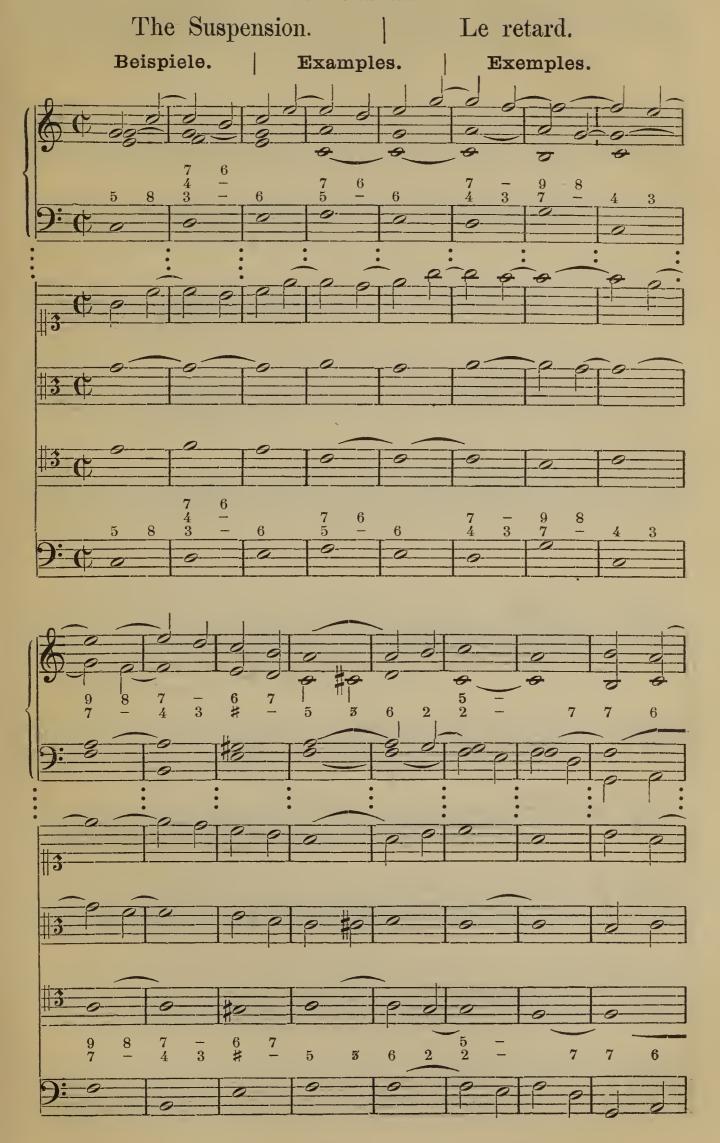


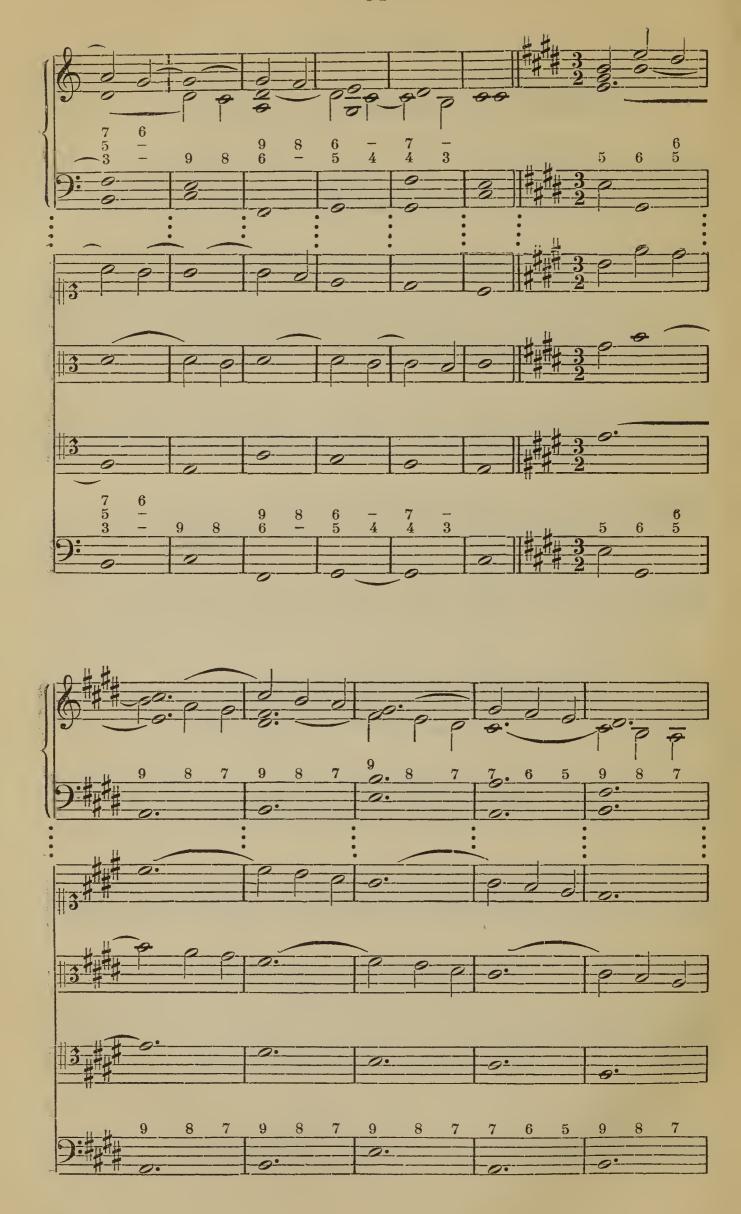
Aufgaben. Exercises. Devoirs.

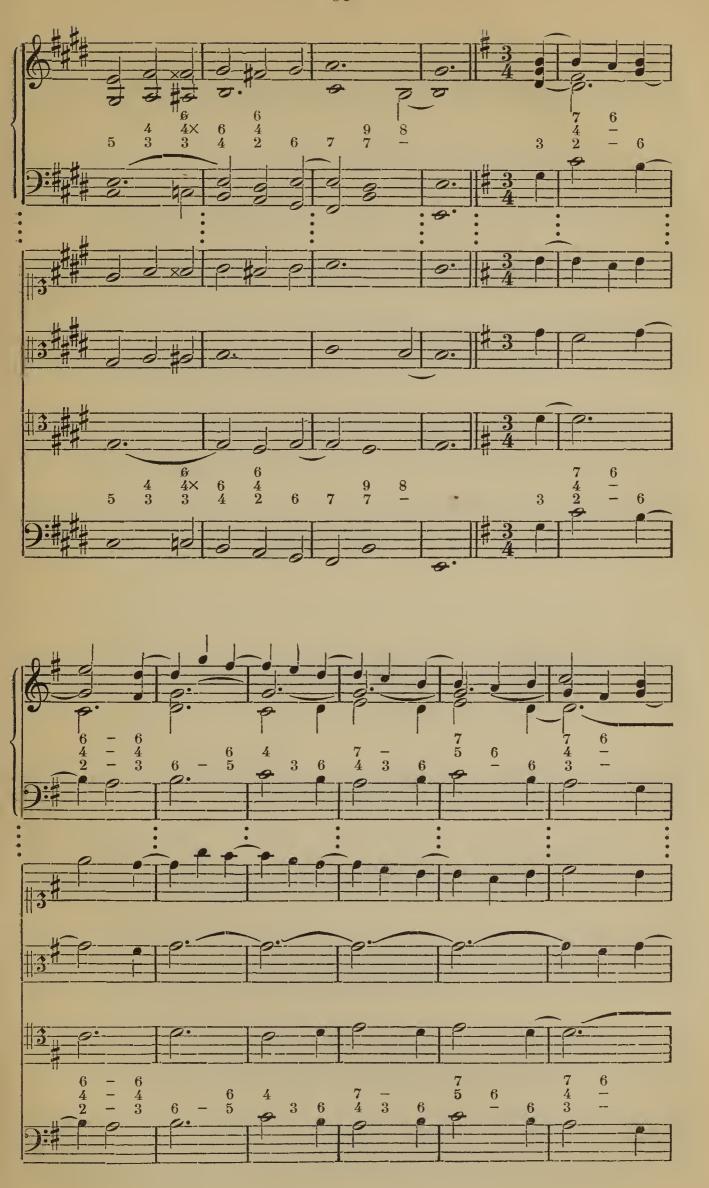


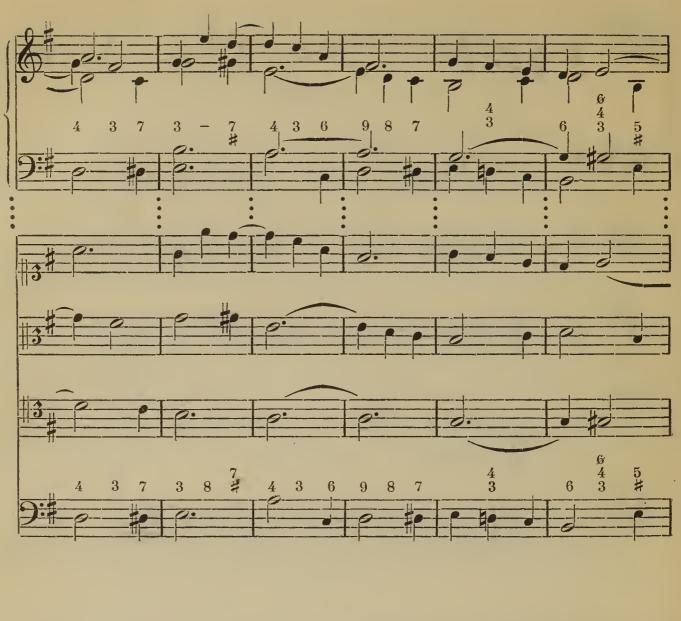


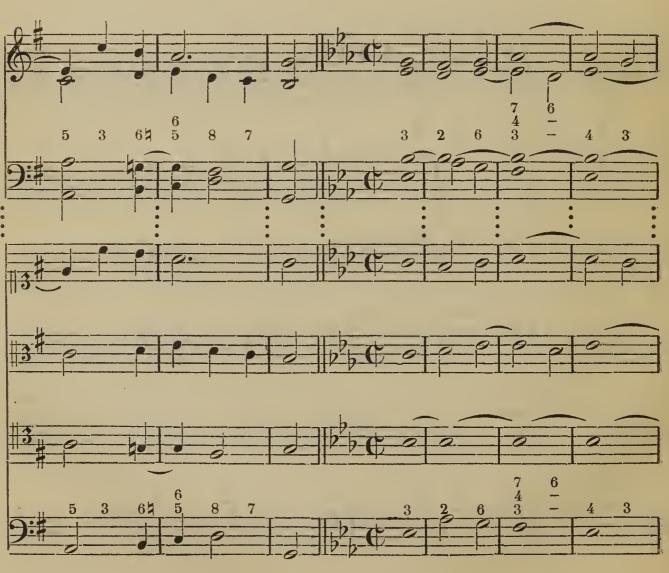
Der Vorhalt.

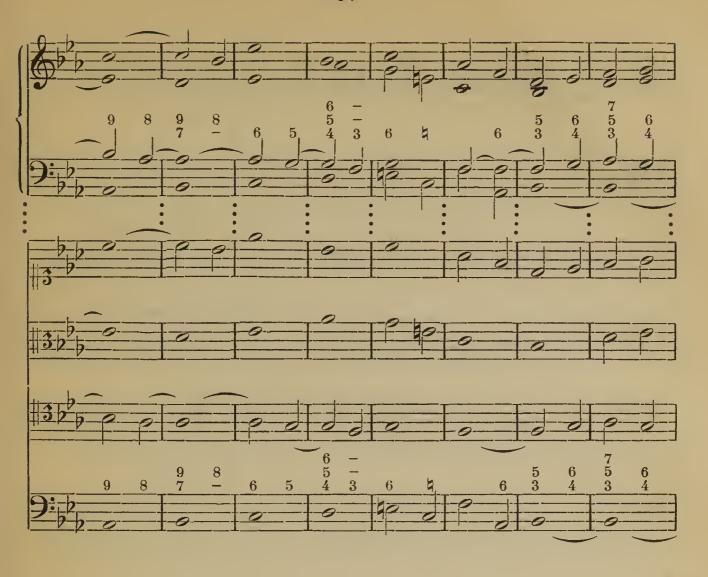






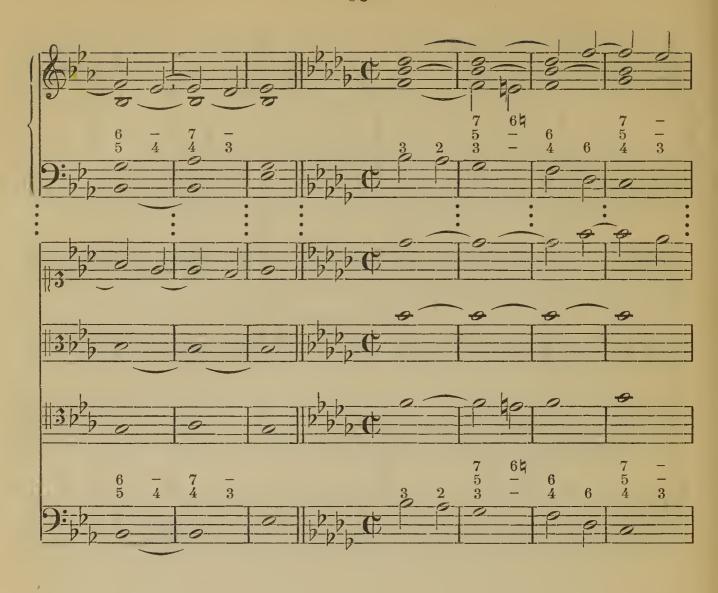


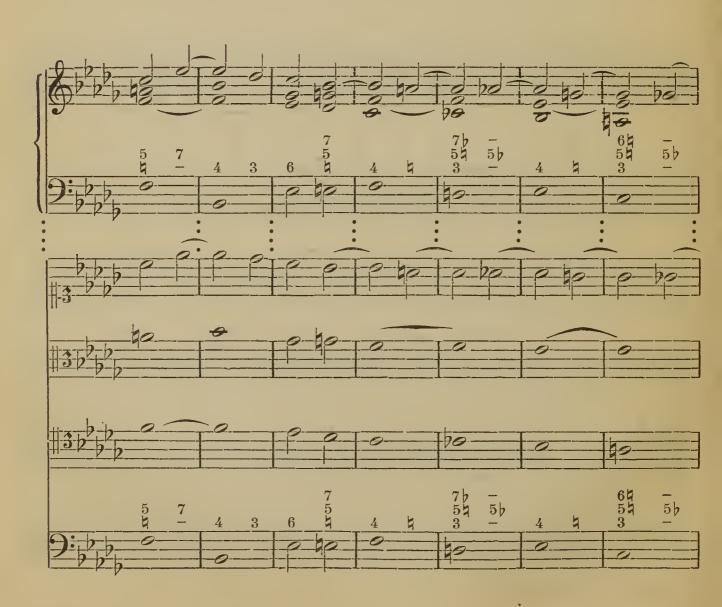


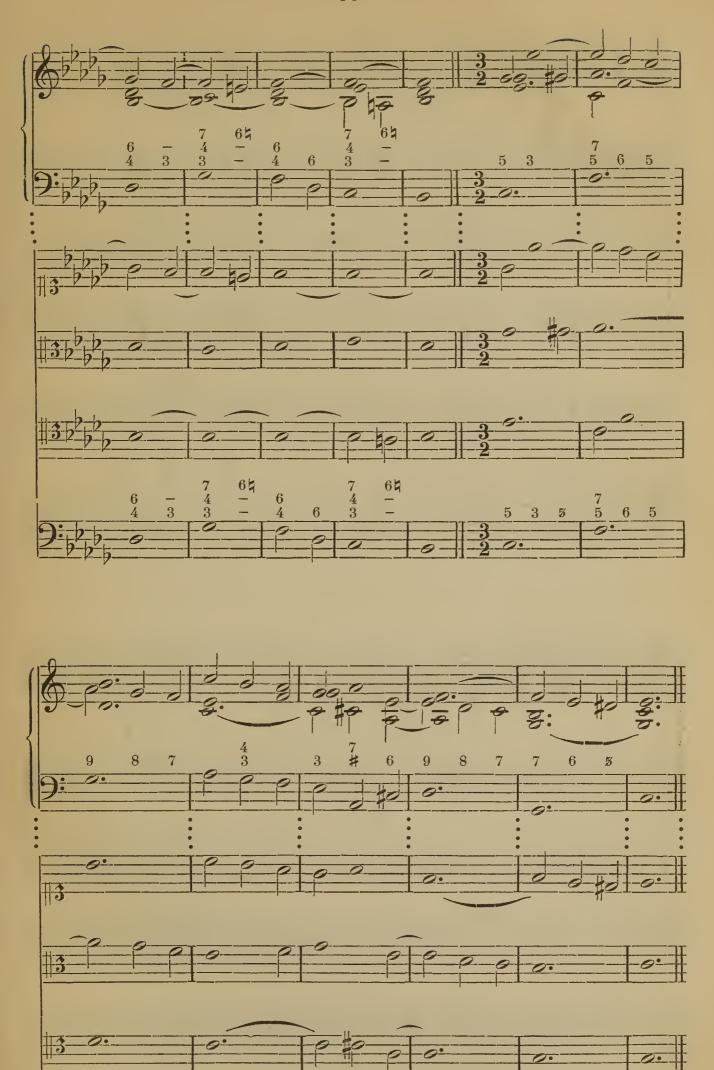




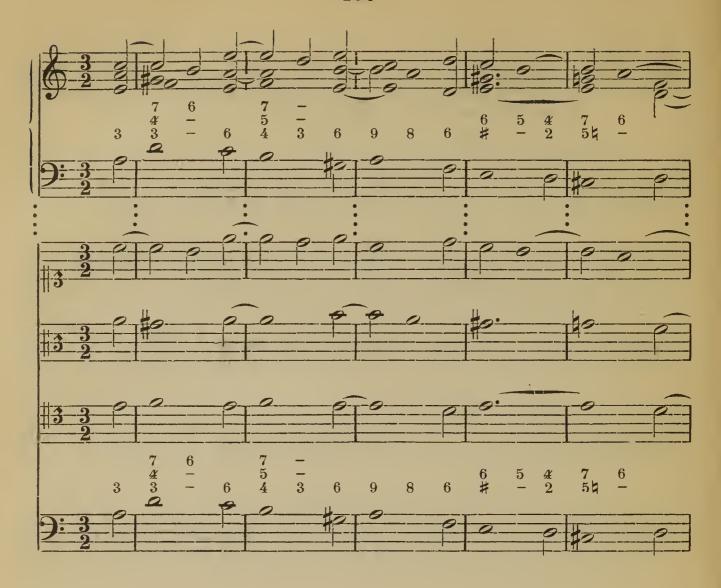
Jadassohn, Generalbass.

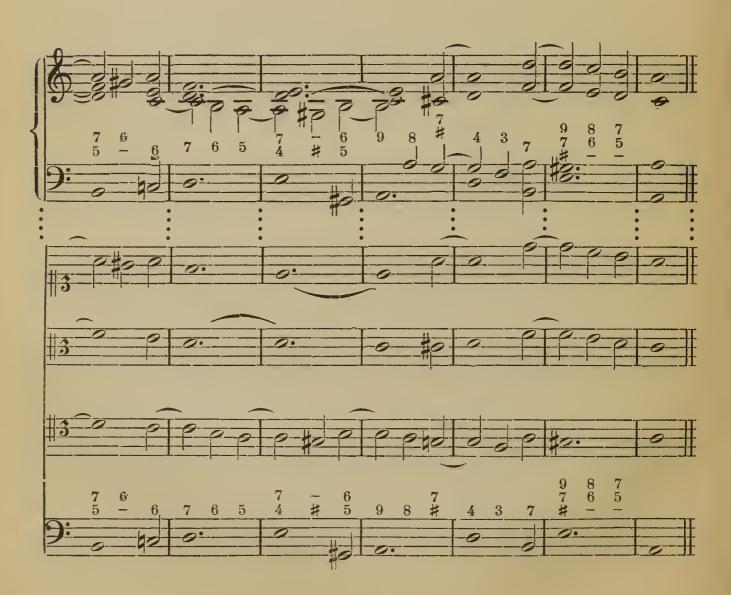


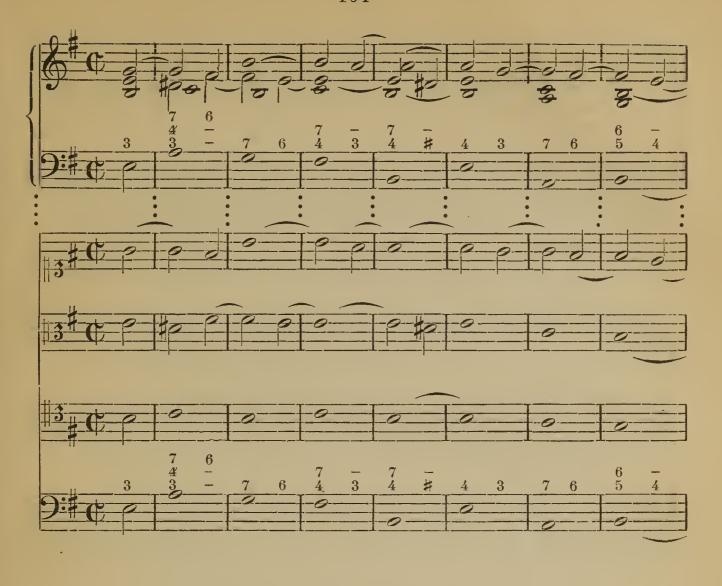


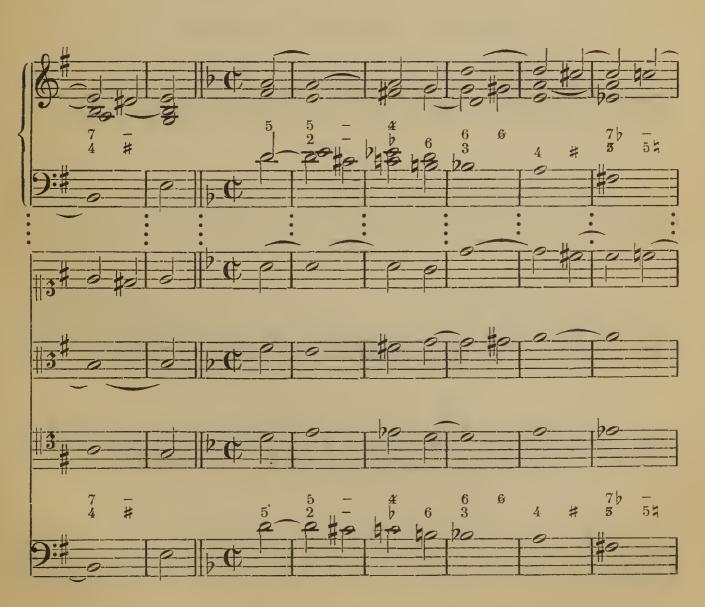


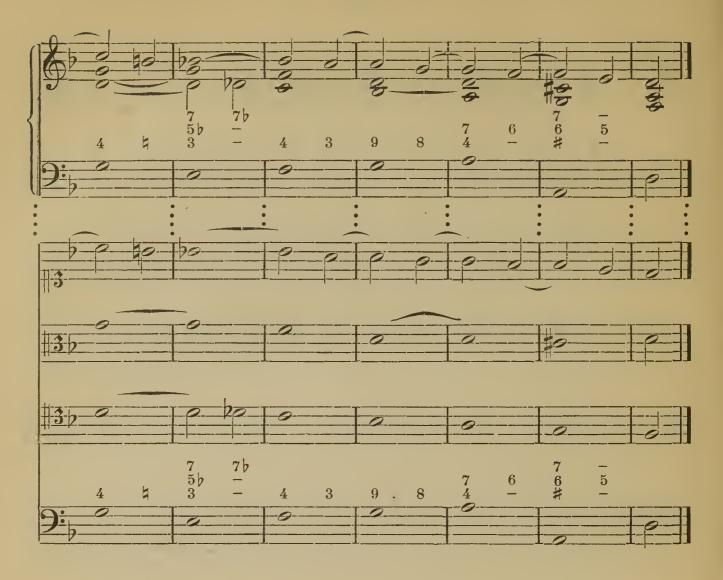
9 8 7 3 6 # 6 9 8 7 7 6 5

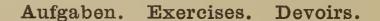


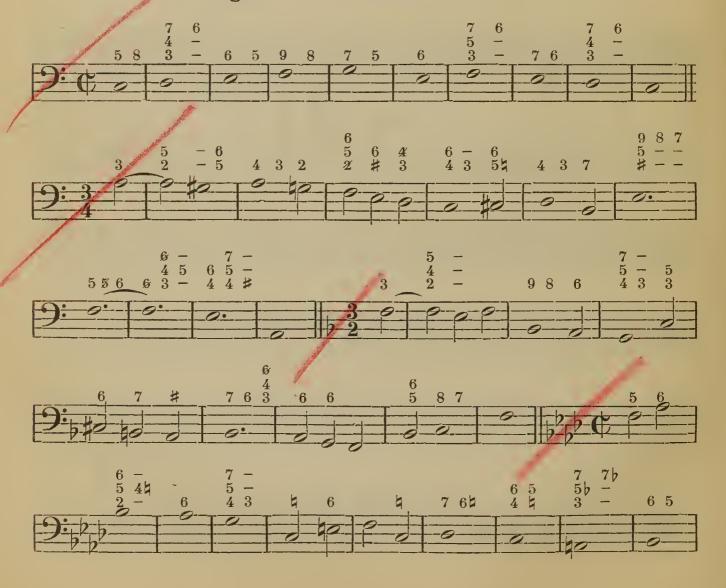


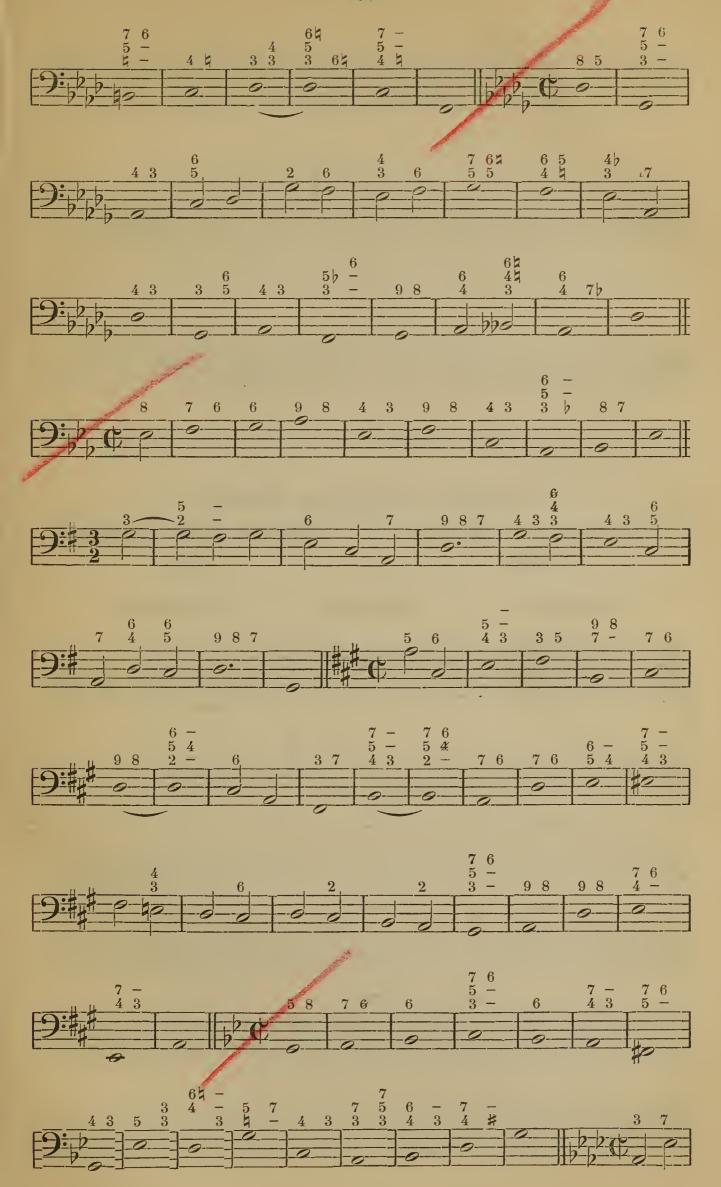


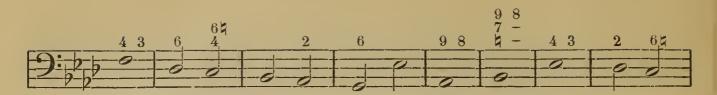














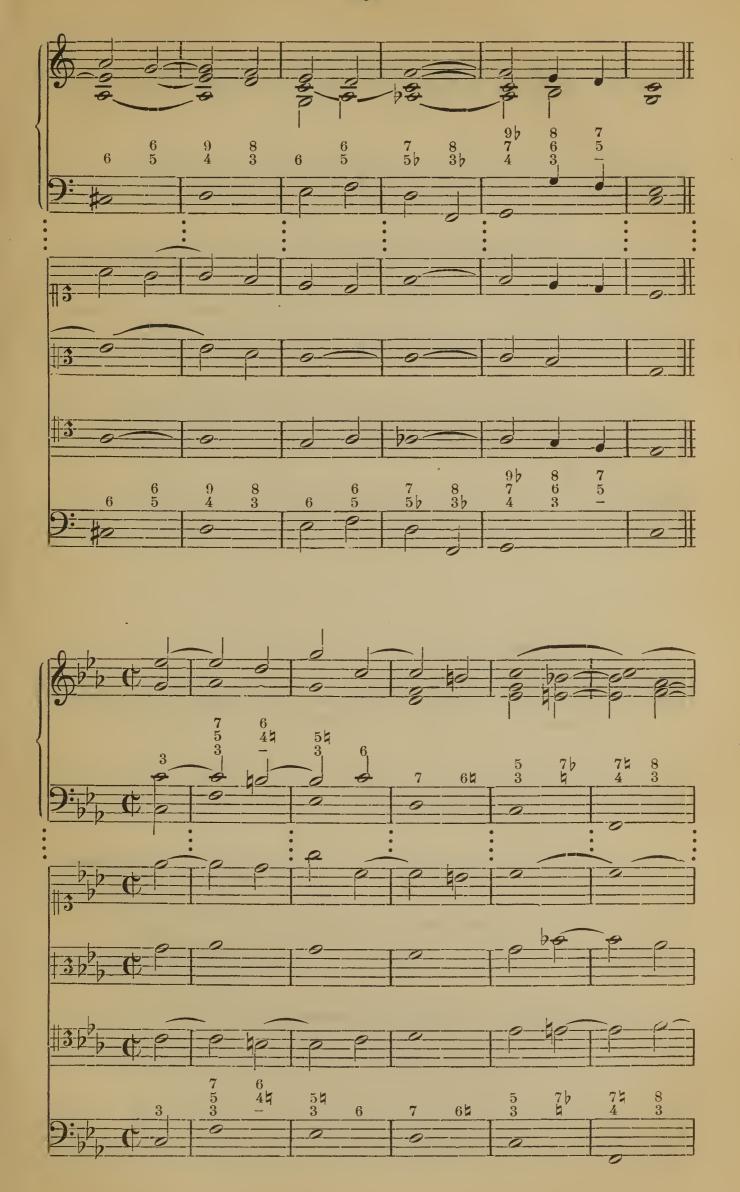


Vorhalte in mehreren Stimmen.

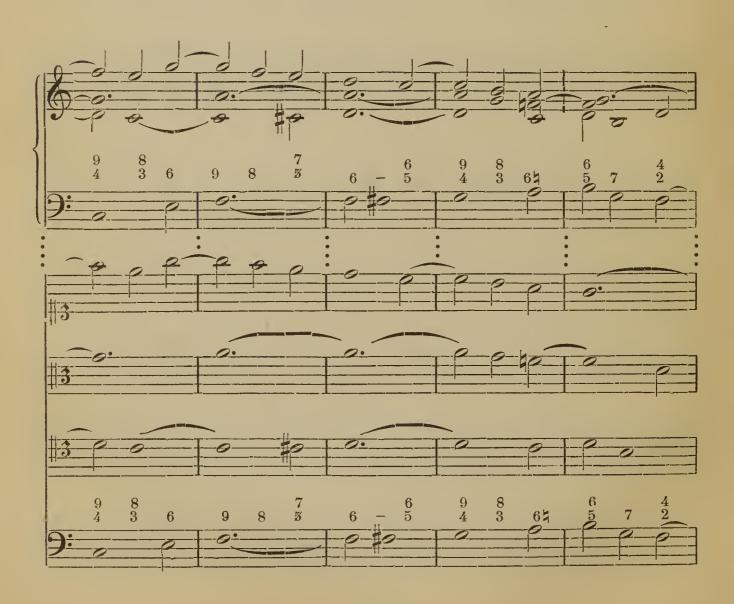
Suspensions in Several Voices.

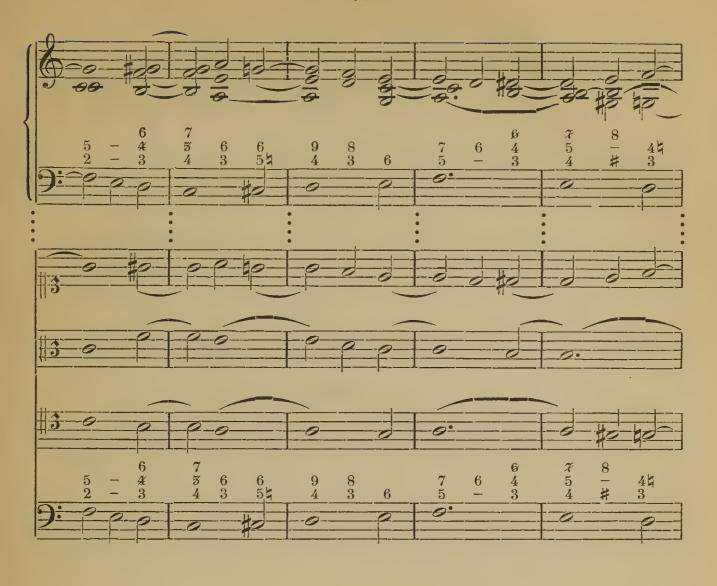
Retards dans plusieurs voix.

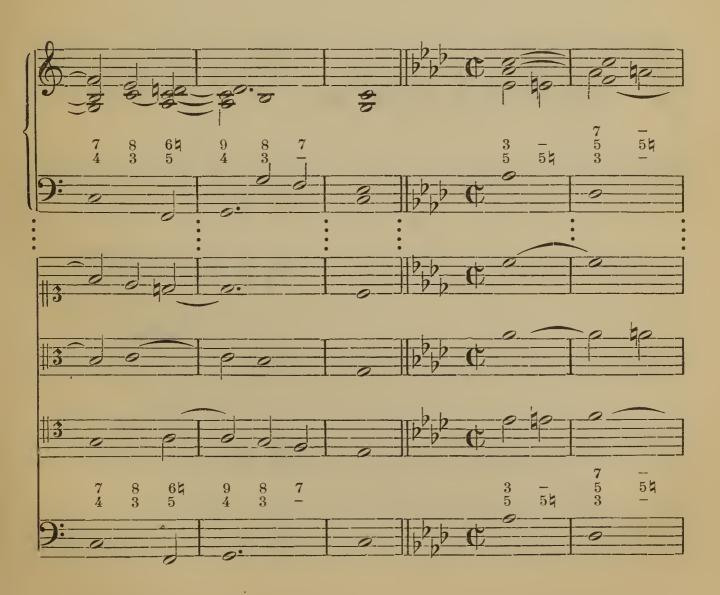






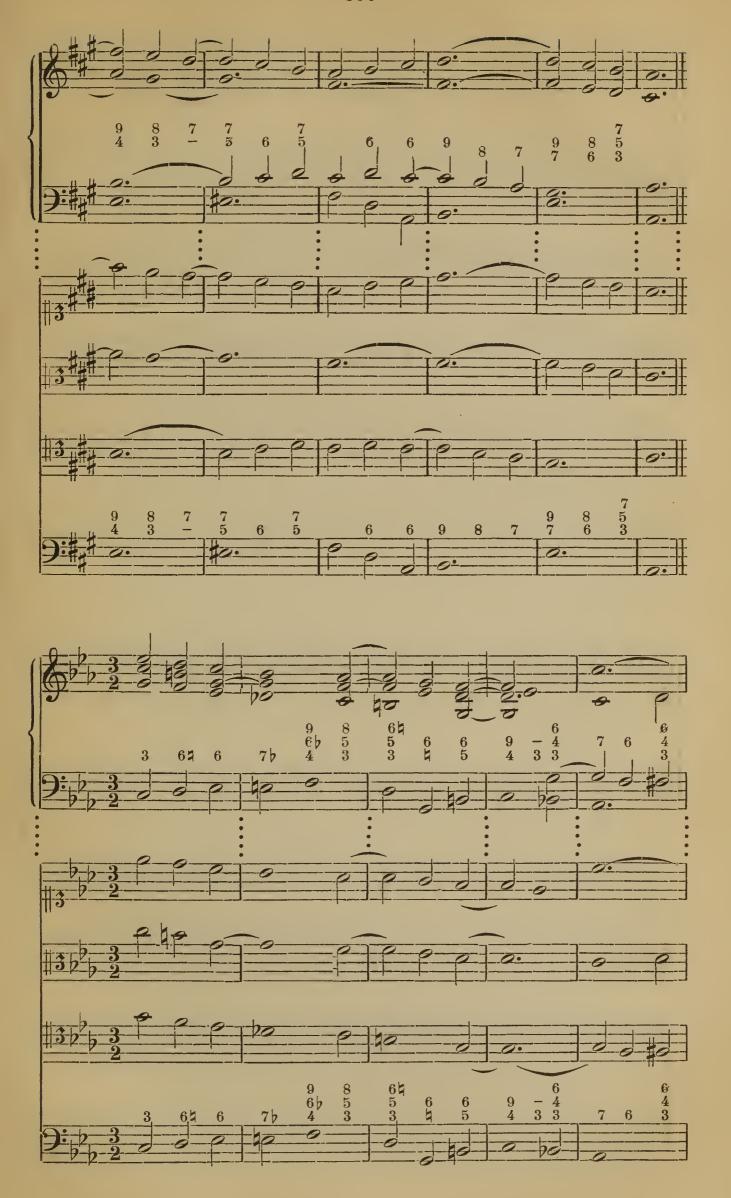


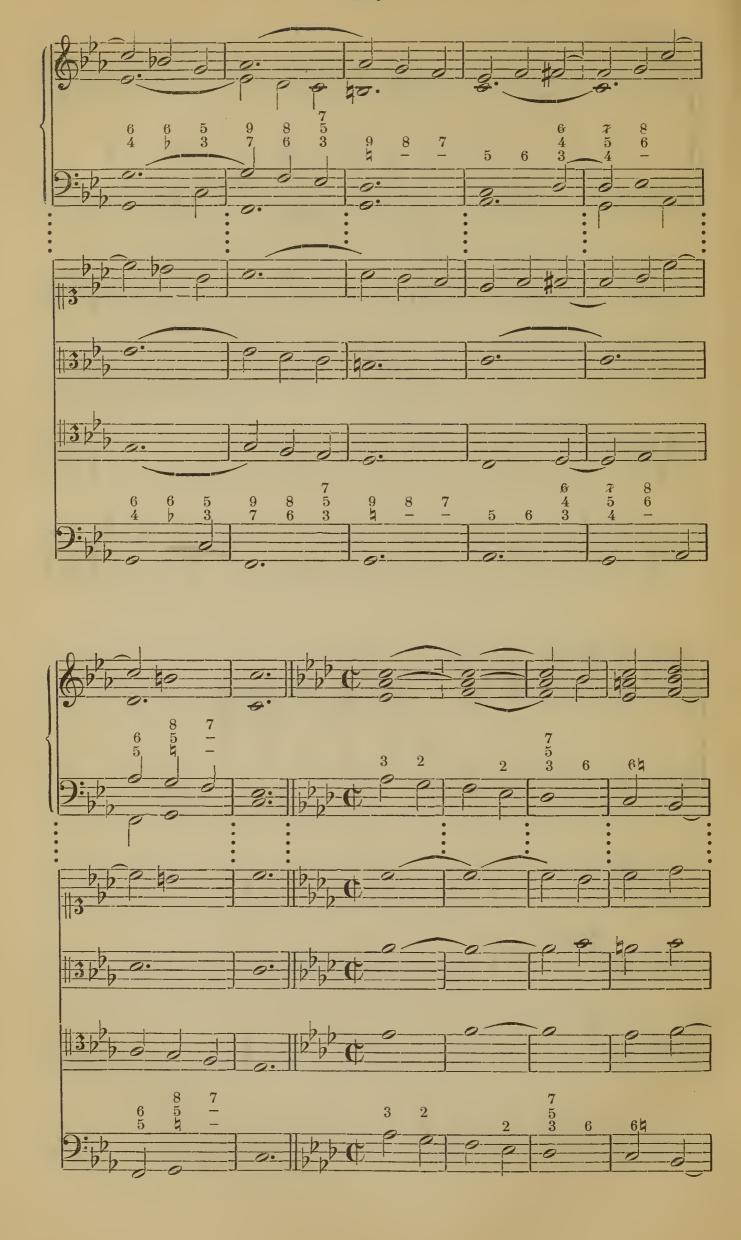


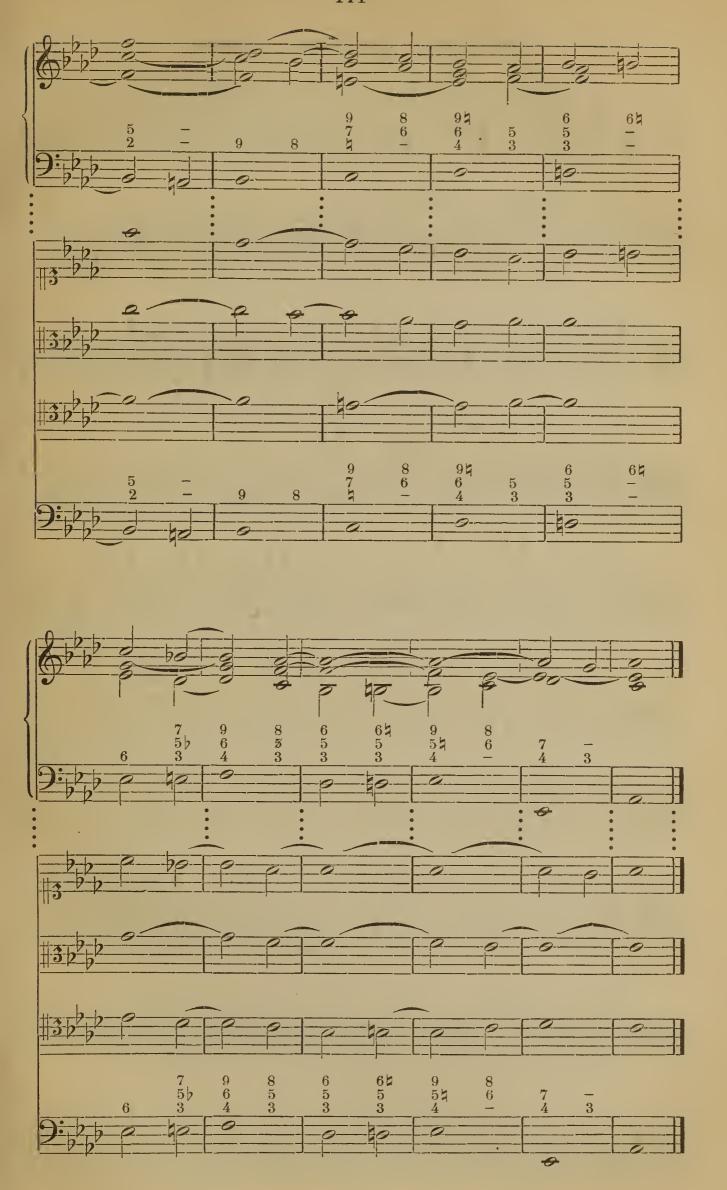


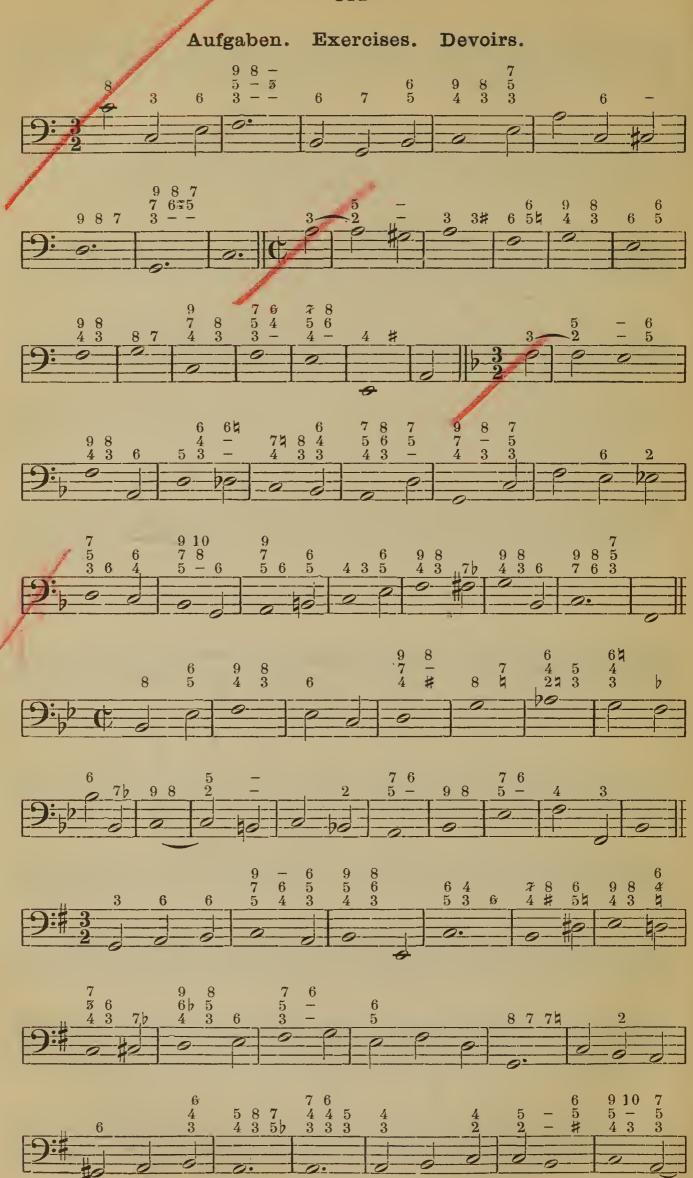


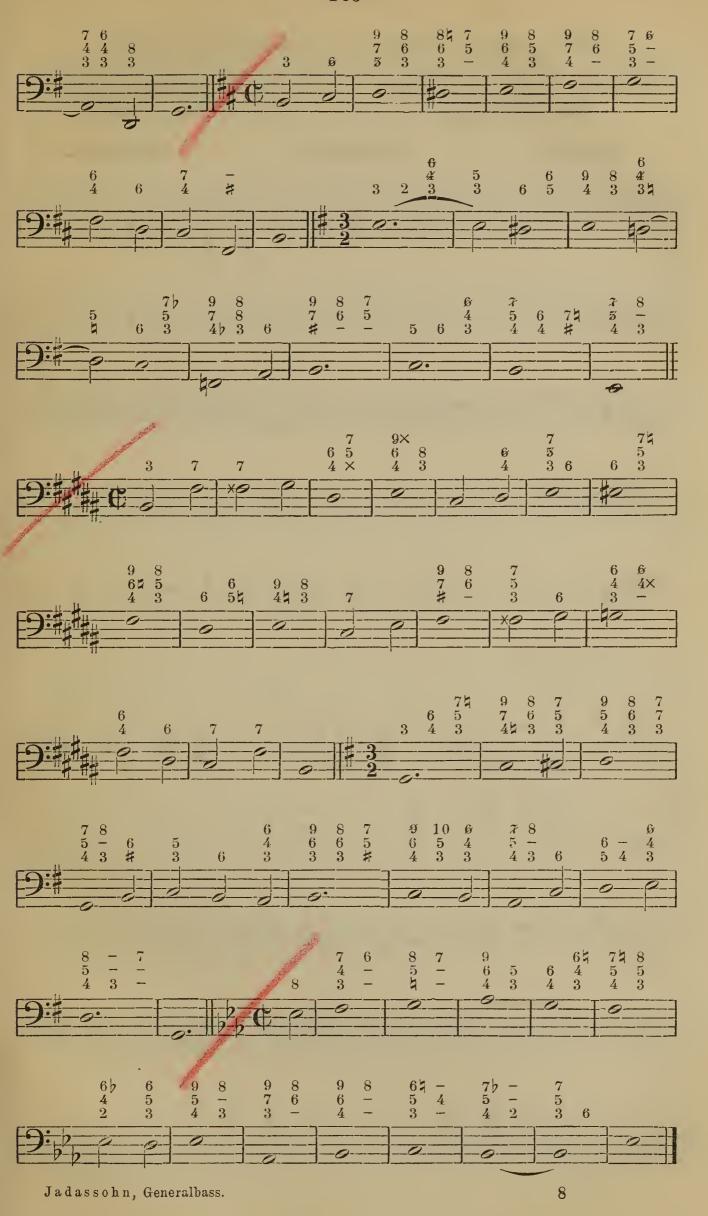








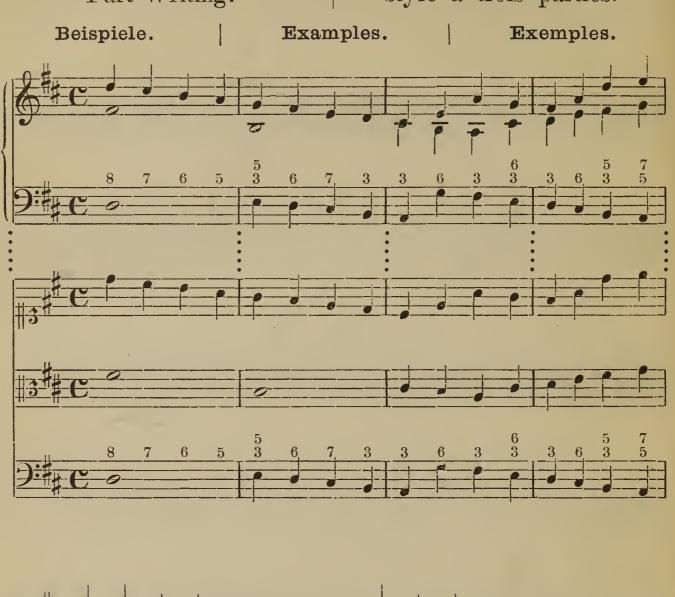


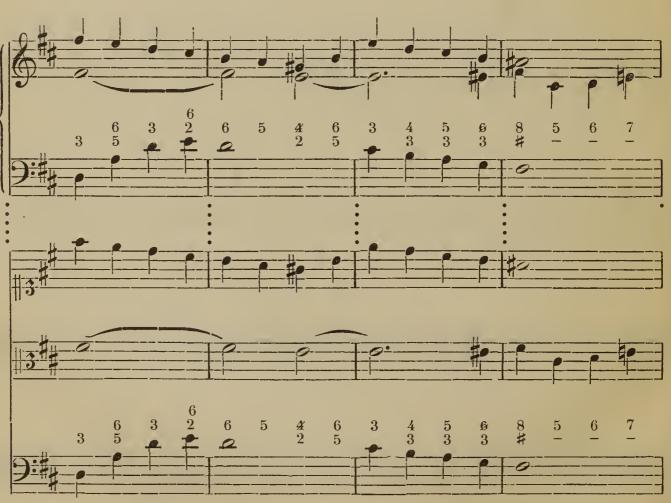


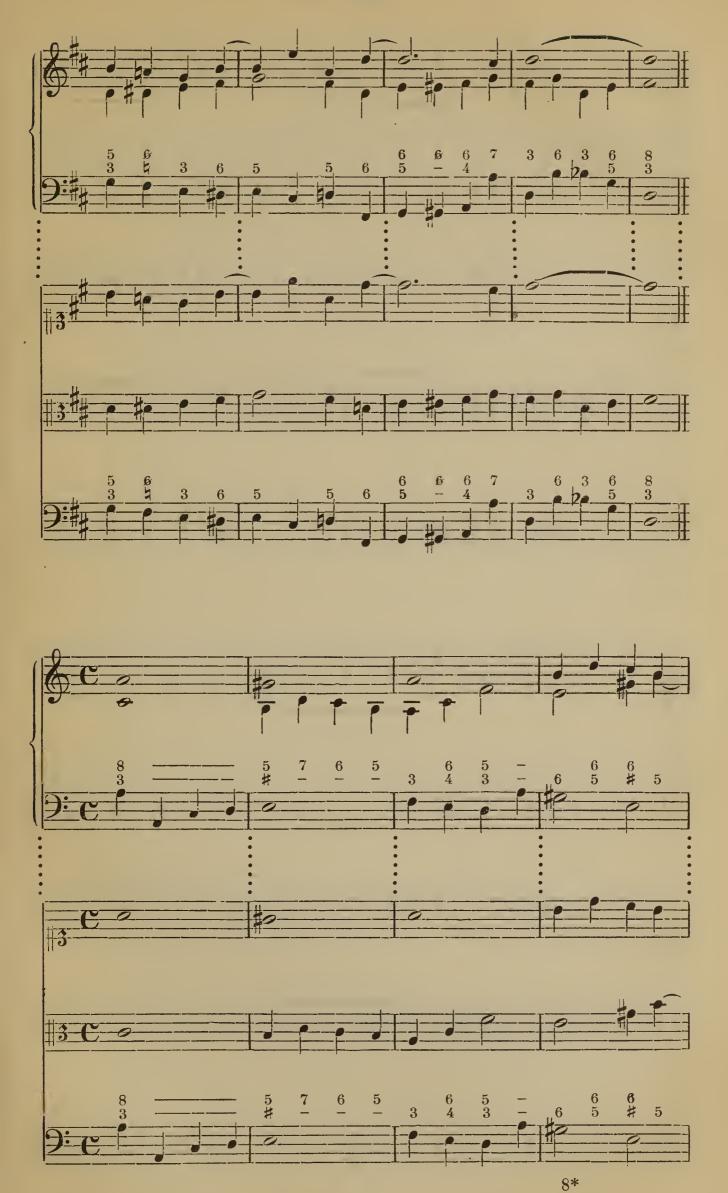
Durchgehende Noten im dreistimmigen Satze.

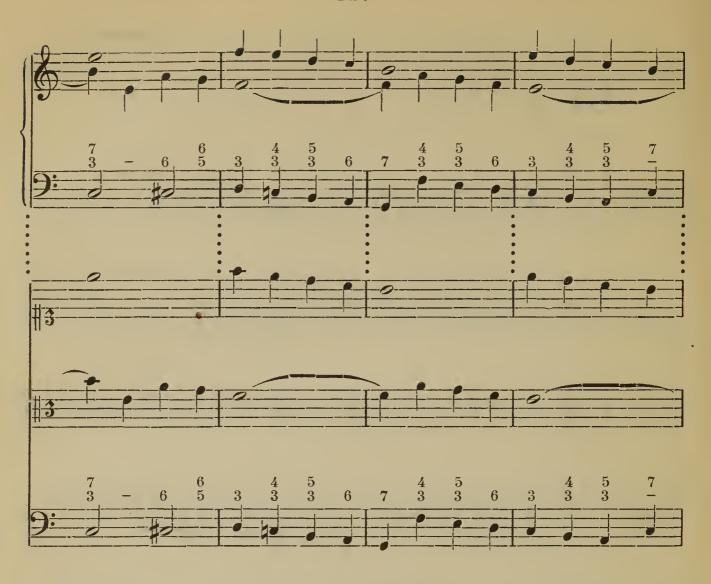
Passing Notes in Three Part-Writing.

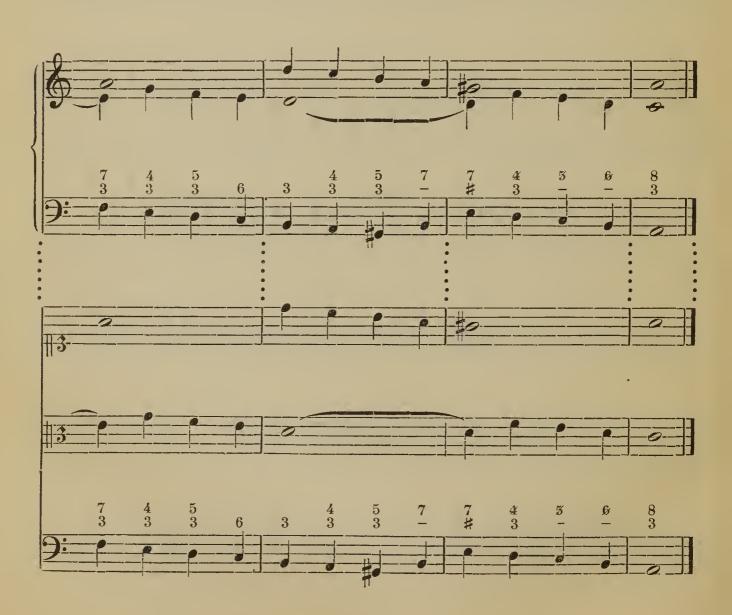
Notes de passage dans le style a trois parties.

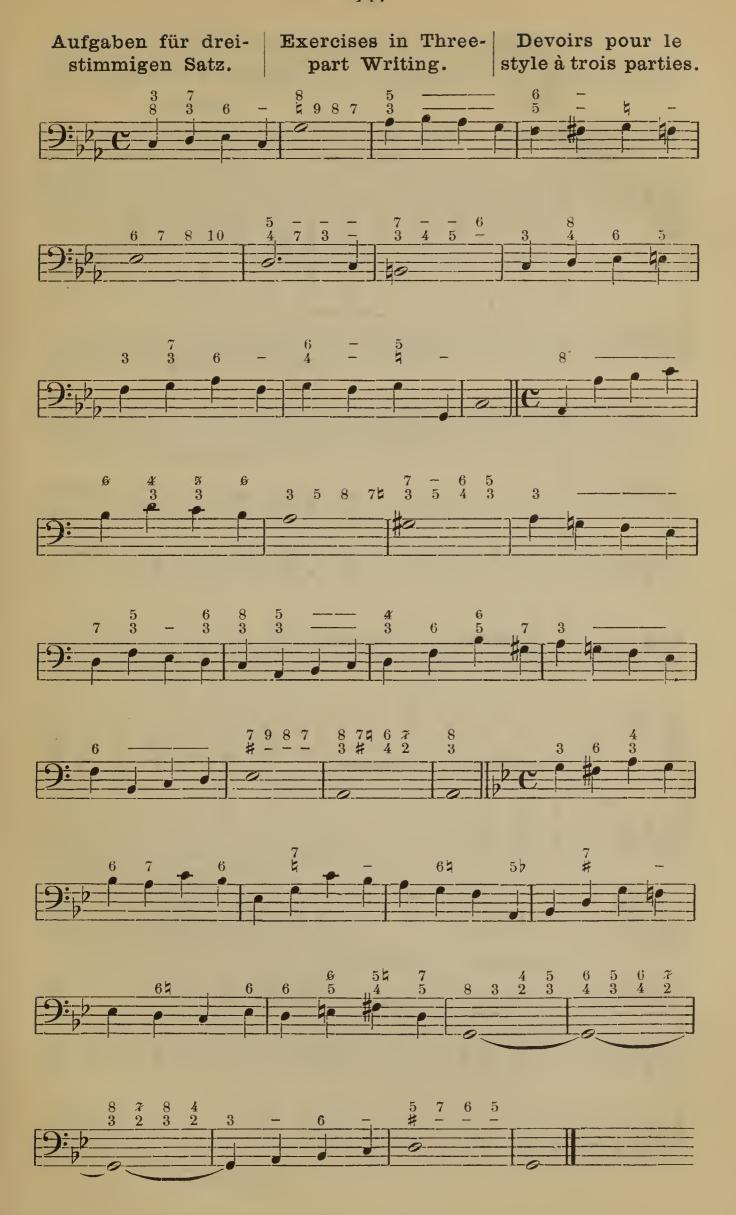




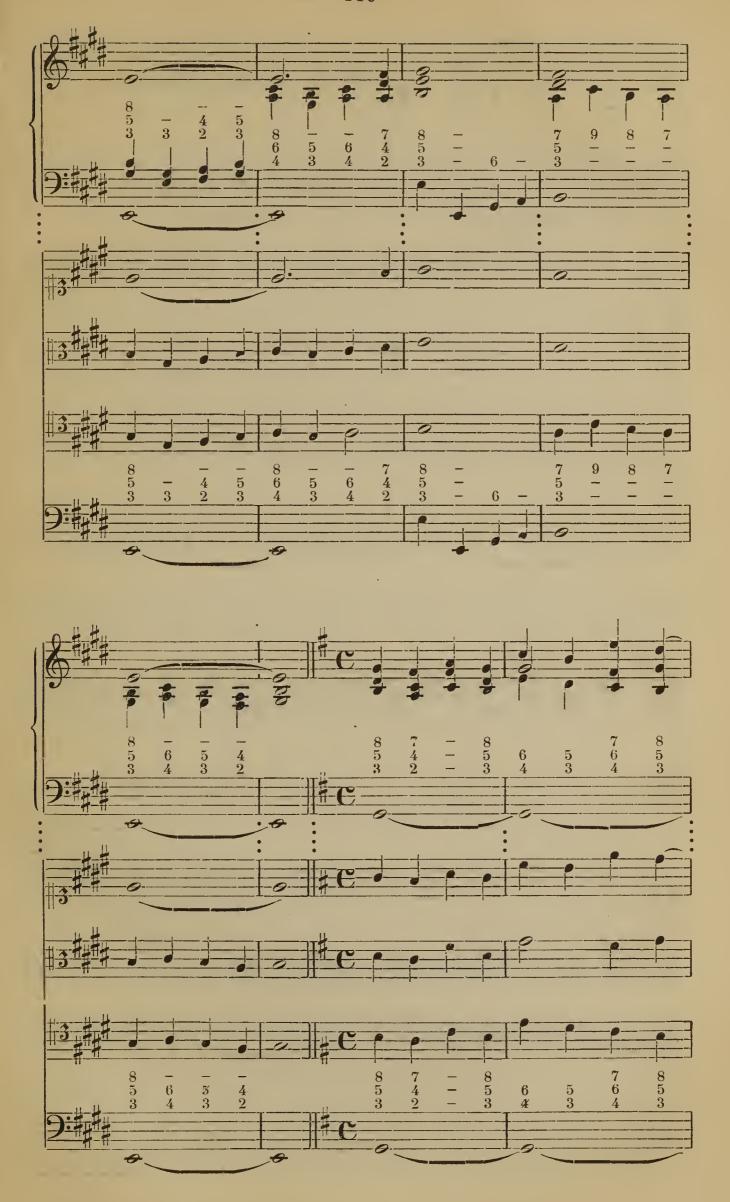


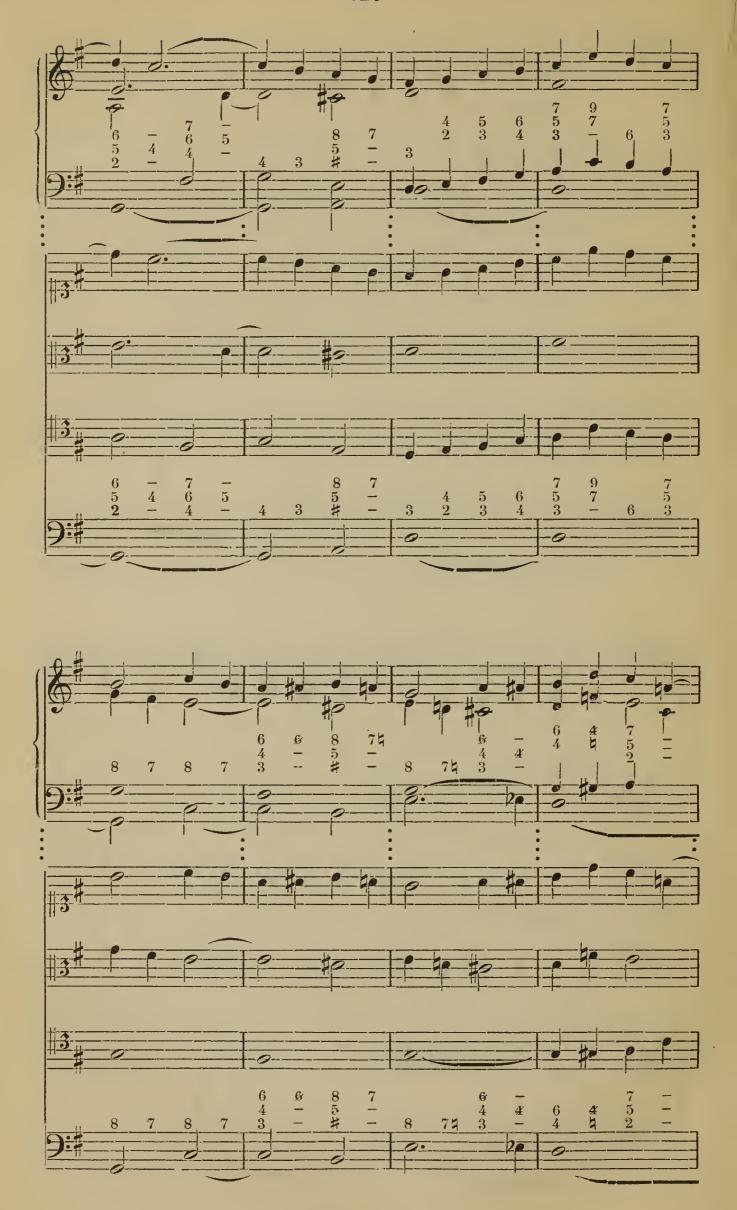


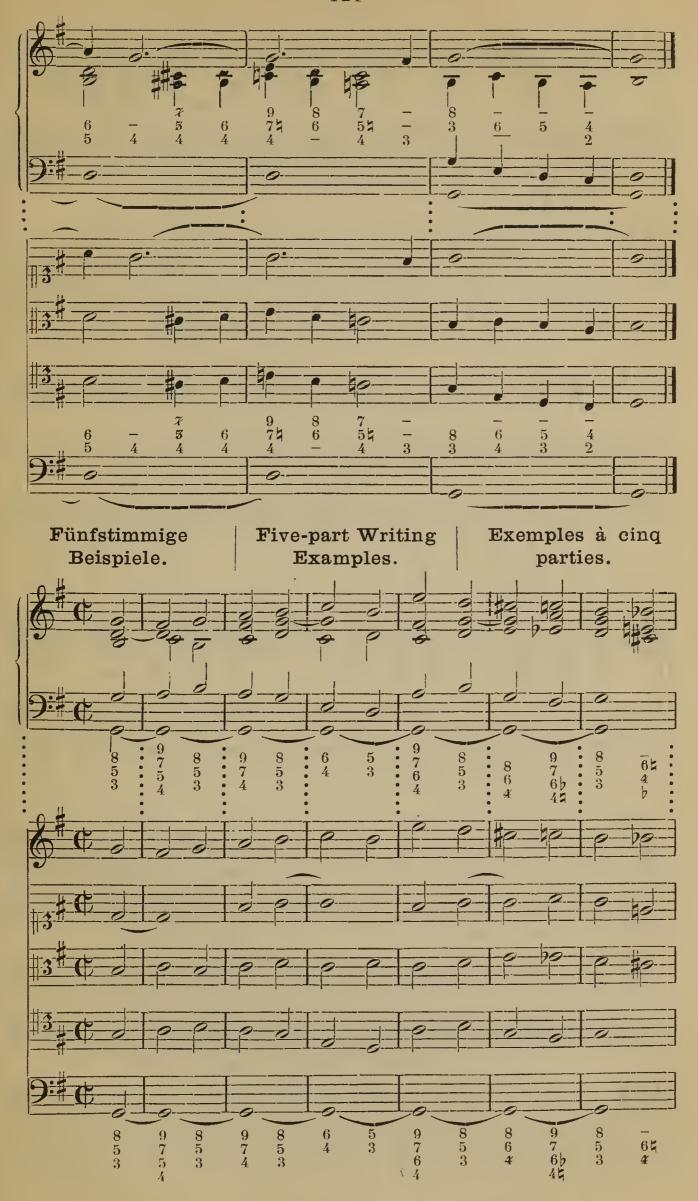


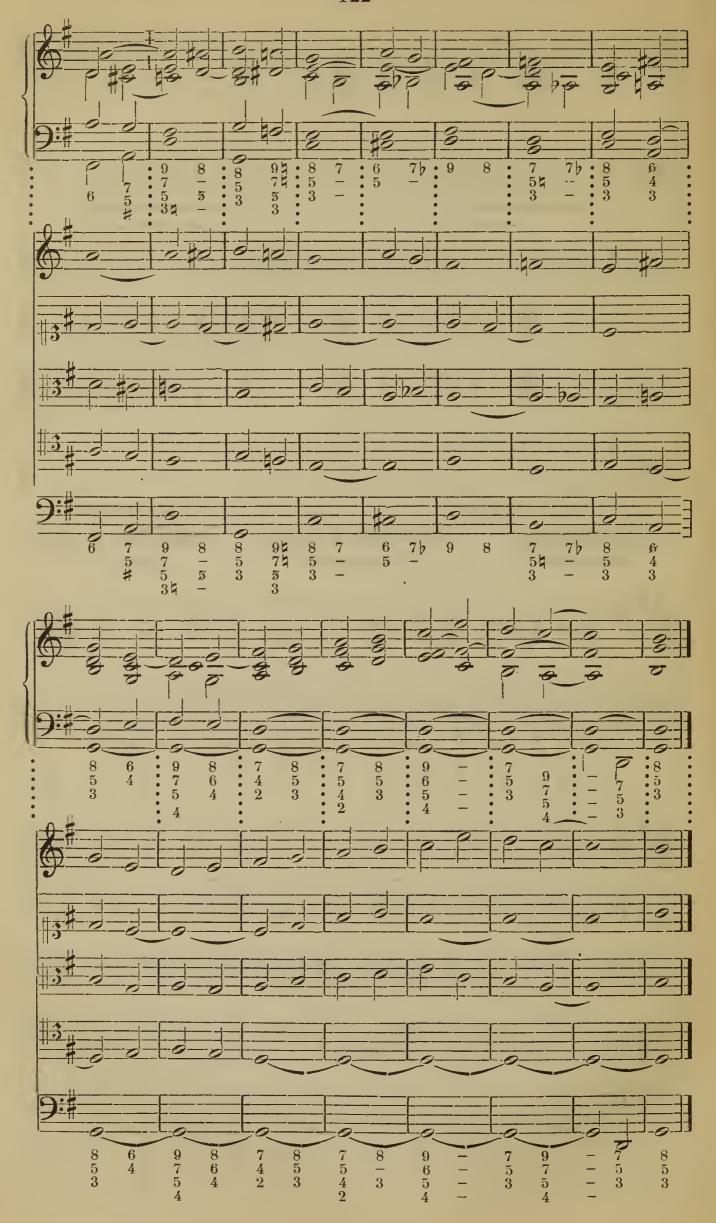


Orgelpunkt und durchgehende Noten. Organ-Point and Passing La pedale et les notes de Notes. passage. Four-part Writing | Exemples dans le Vierstimmige Beistyle à quatre parties. Examples. spiele.

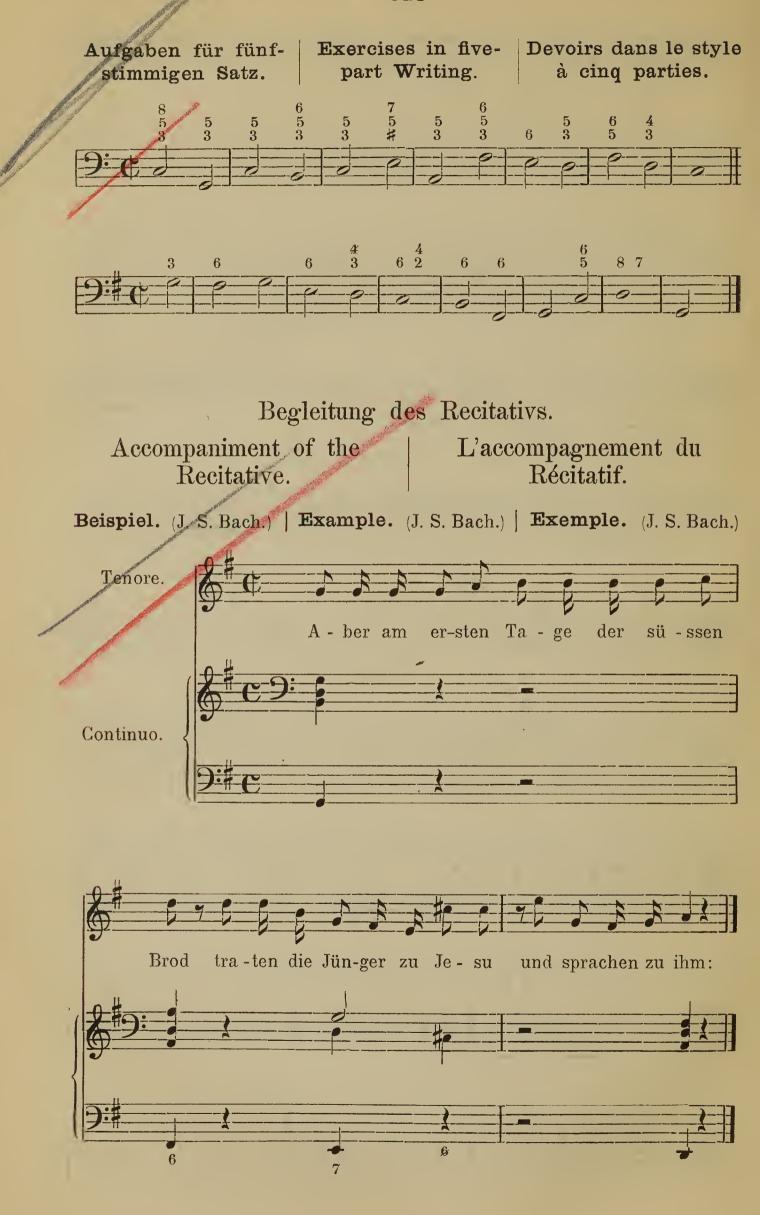


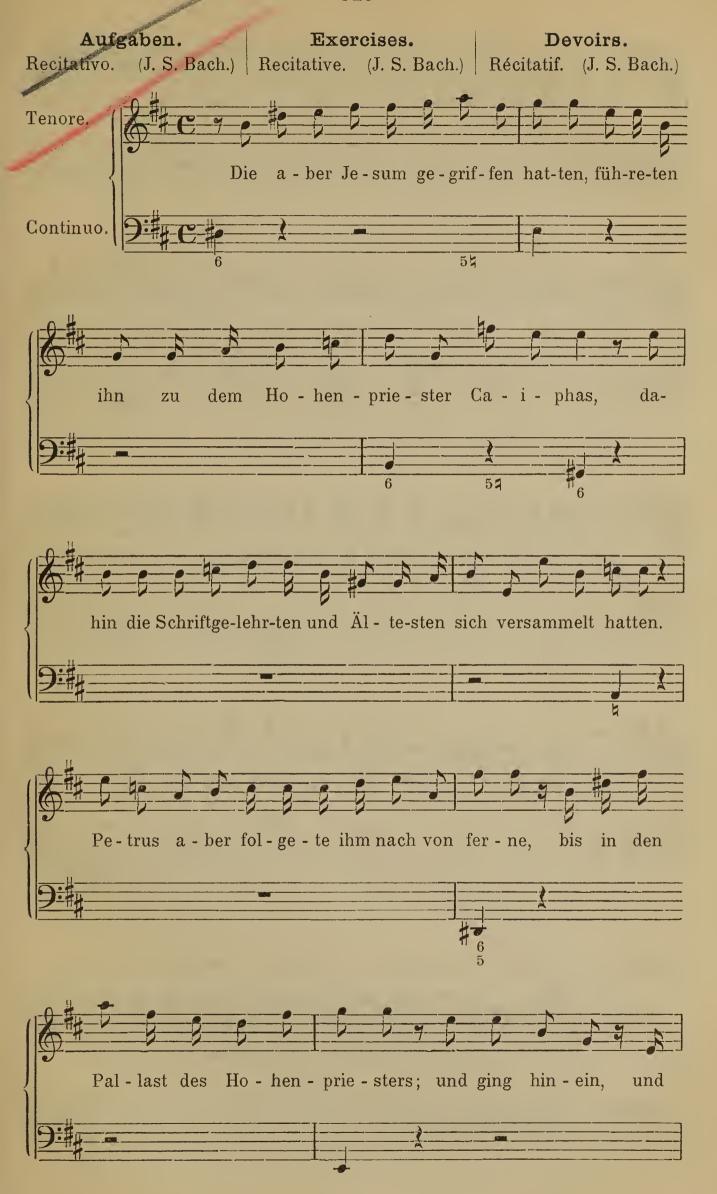


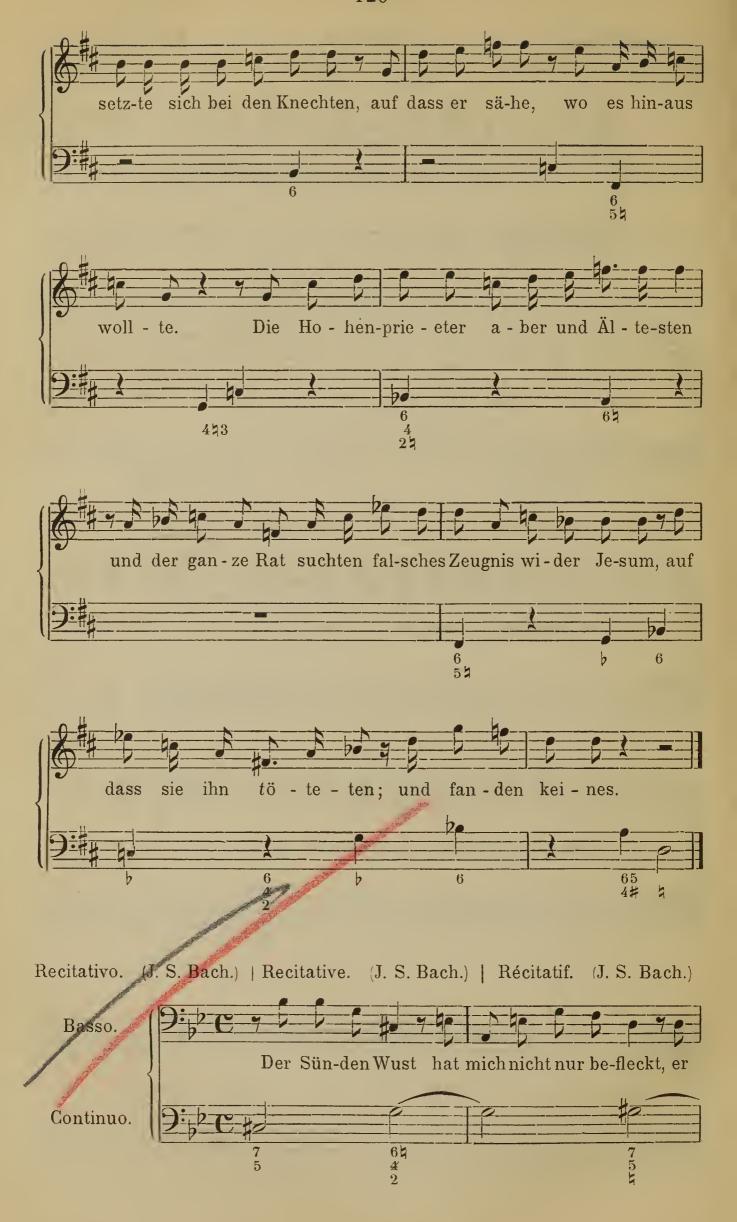


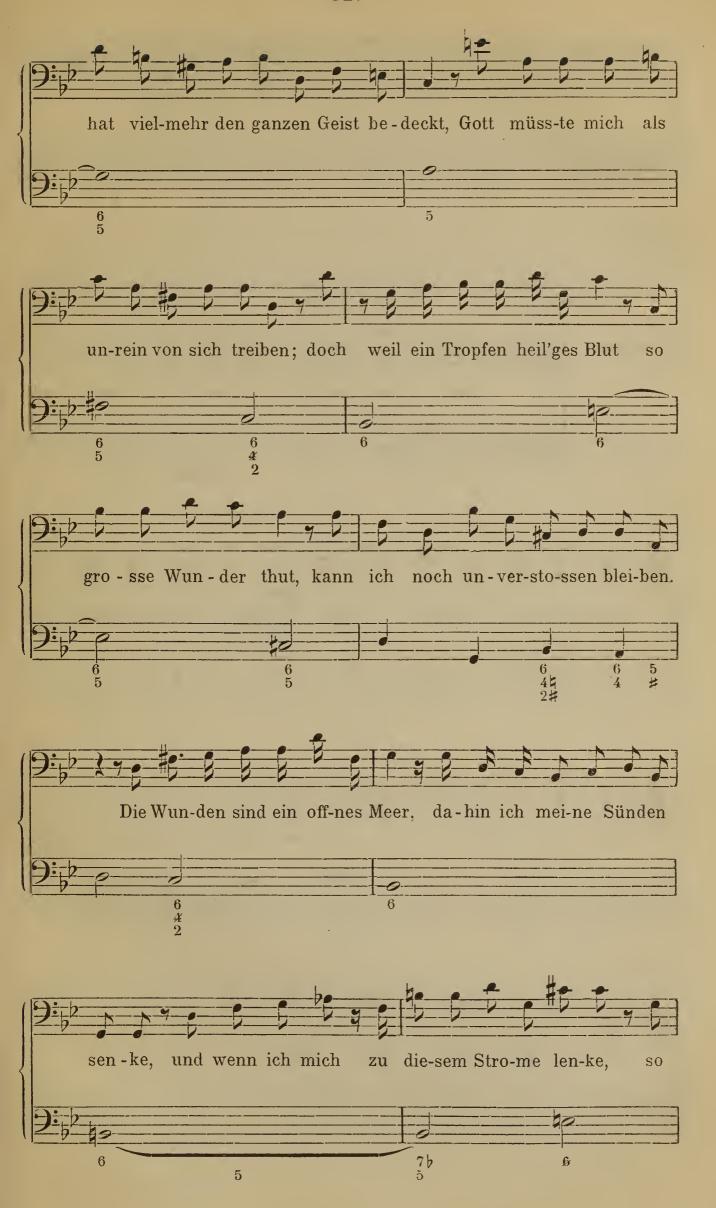


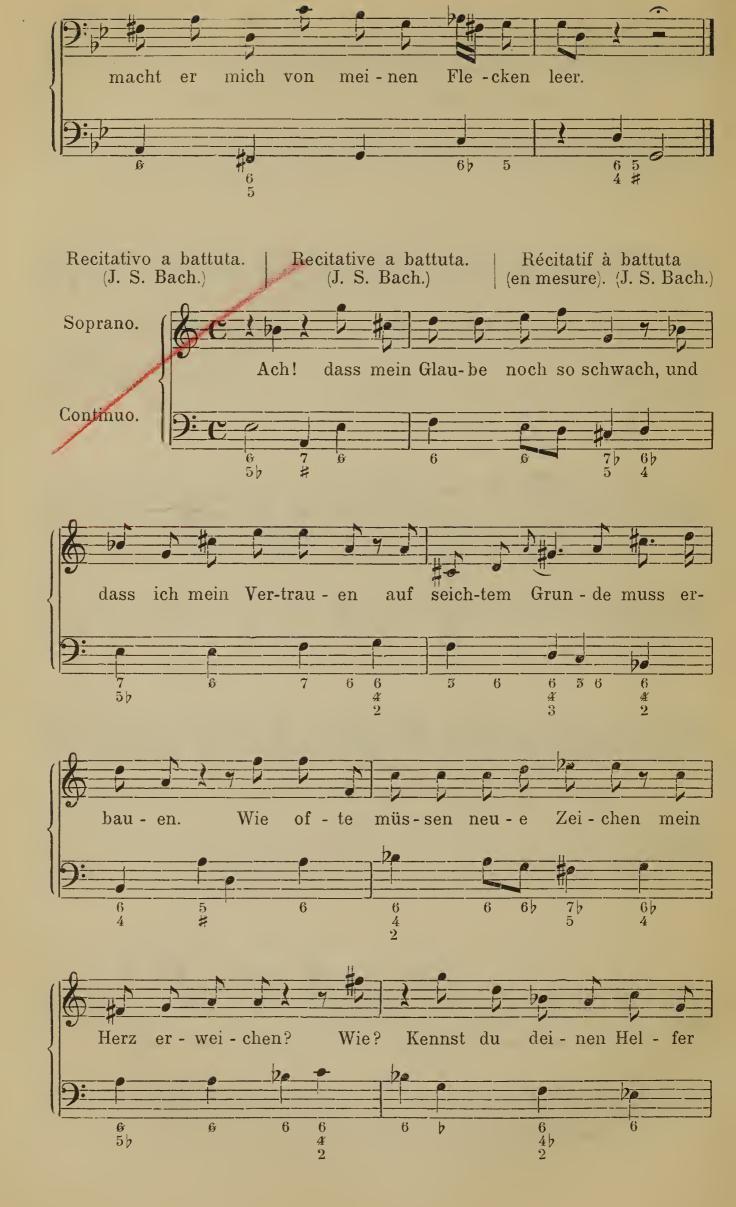
Exercises in four- | Devoirs dans le style Aufgaben für vierpart Writing. à quatre parties. stimmigen Satz. 3 5 - $6 \begin{array}{c} 6 \\ 5 \end{array}$ 864 $\begin{array}{r}
 8 - \\
 7 + 6 \\
 5 4
 \end{array}$

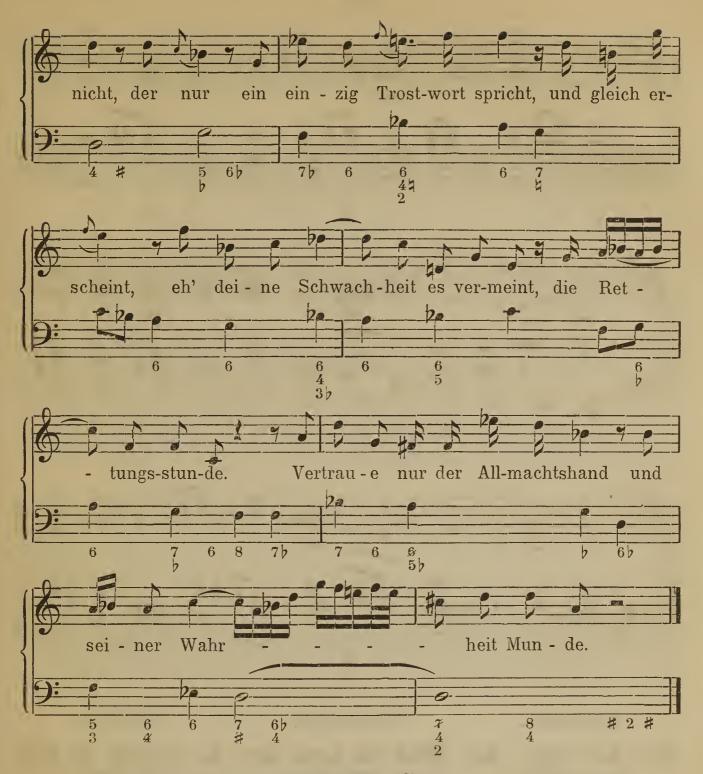




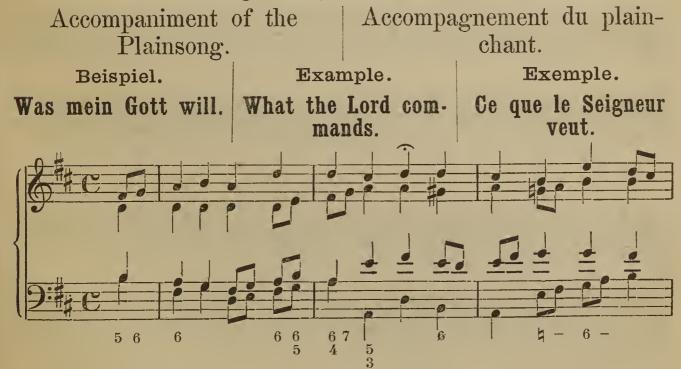






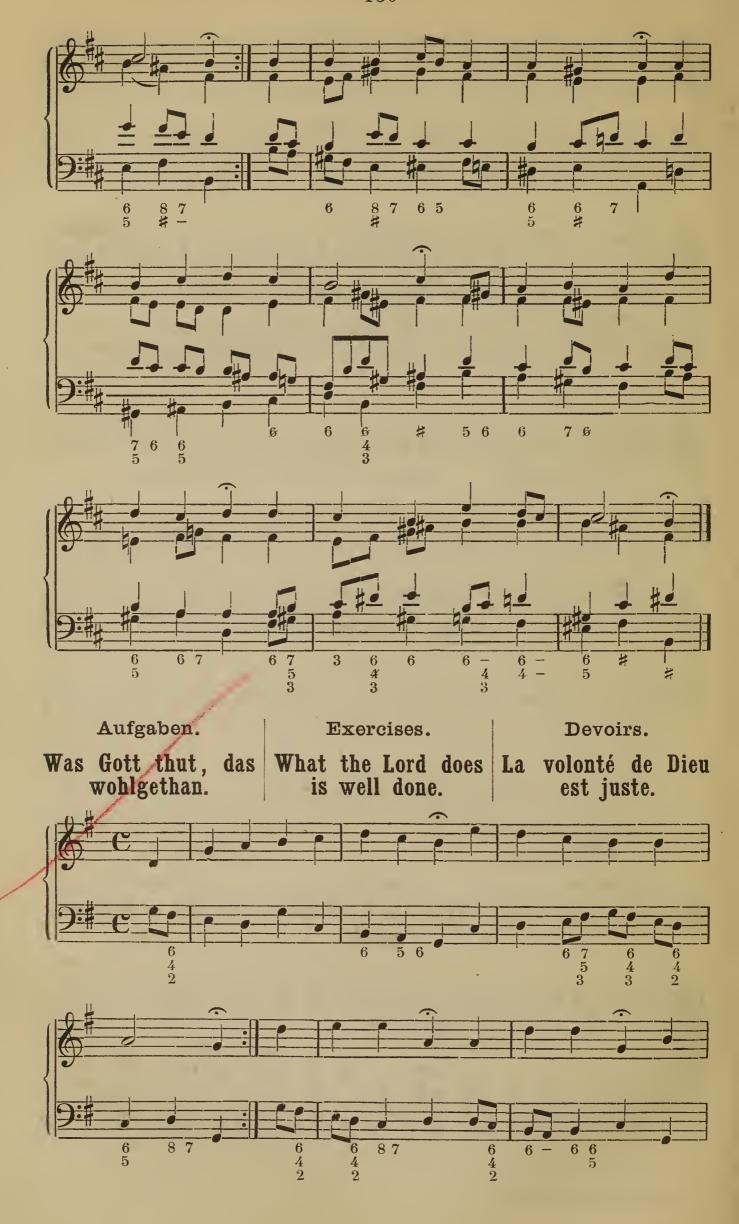


Begleitung des Chorals.

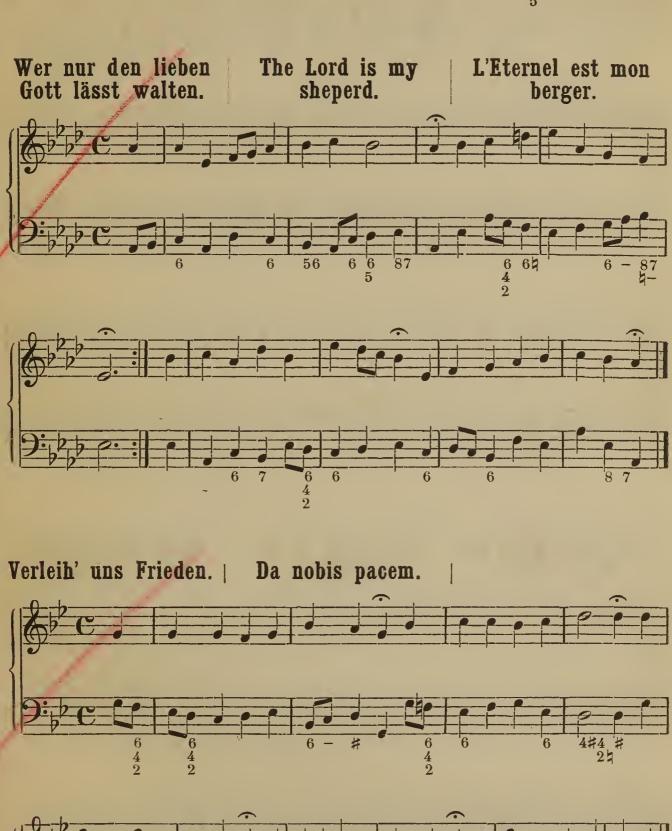


Jadassohn, Generalbass.

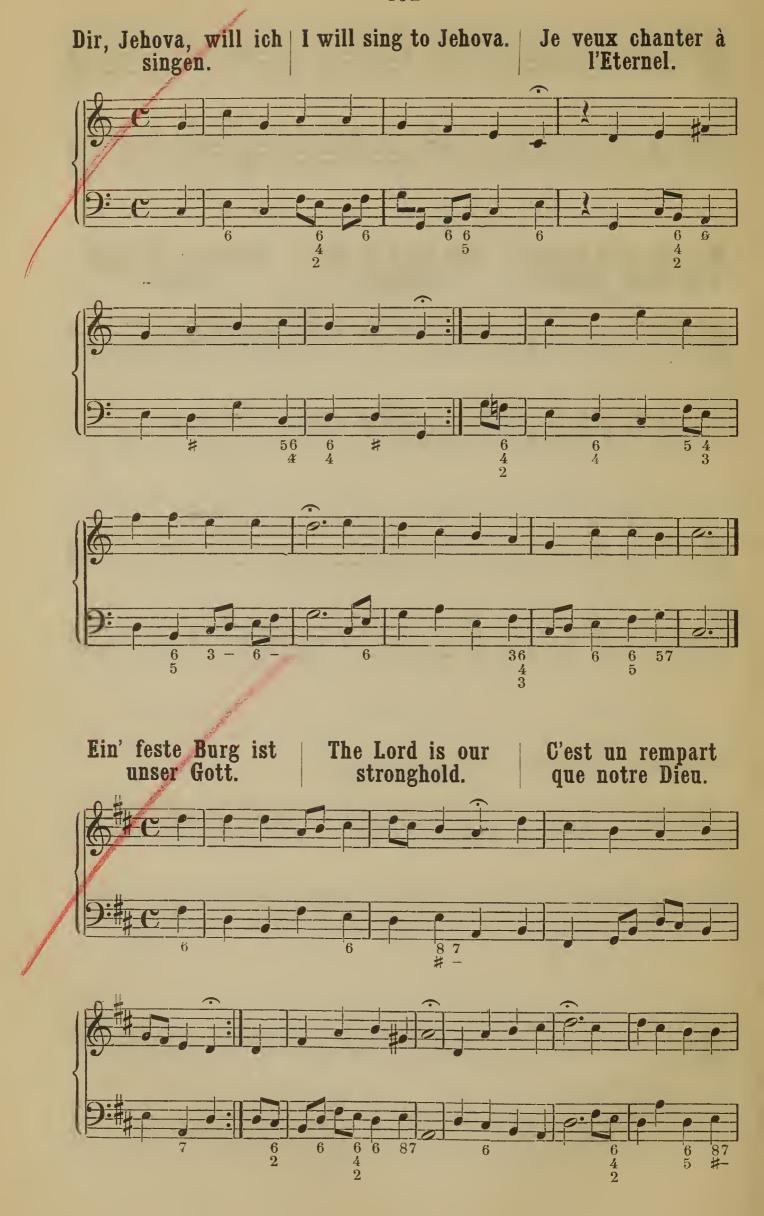
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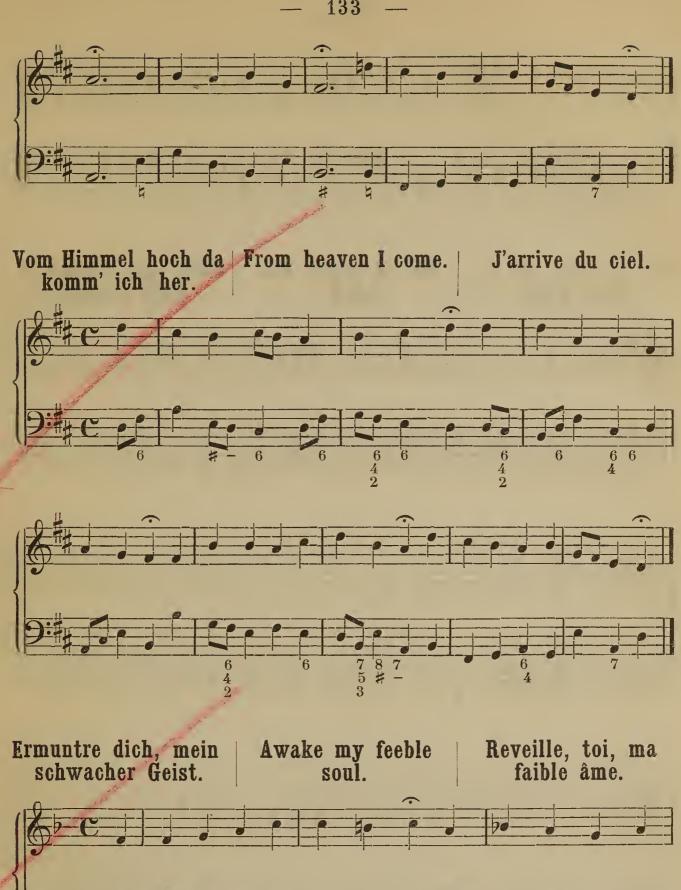


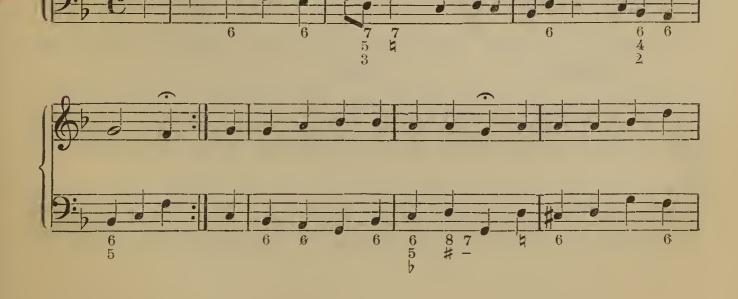














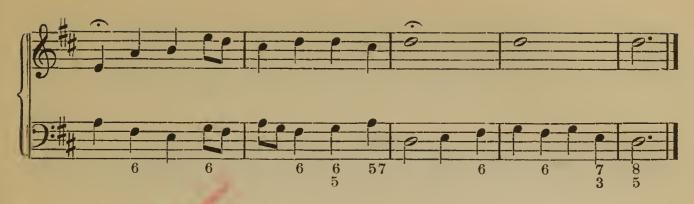
Wir glauben all an | We all praise one | Nous tous croient en einen Gott. | Lord. | Dieu le père.

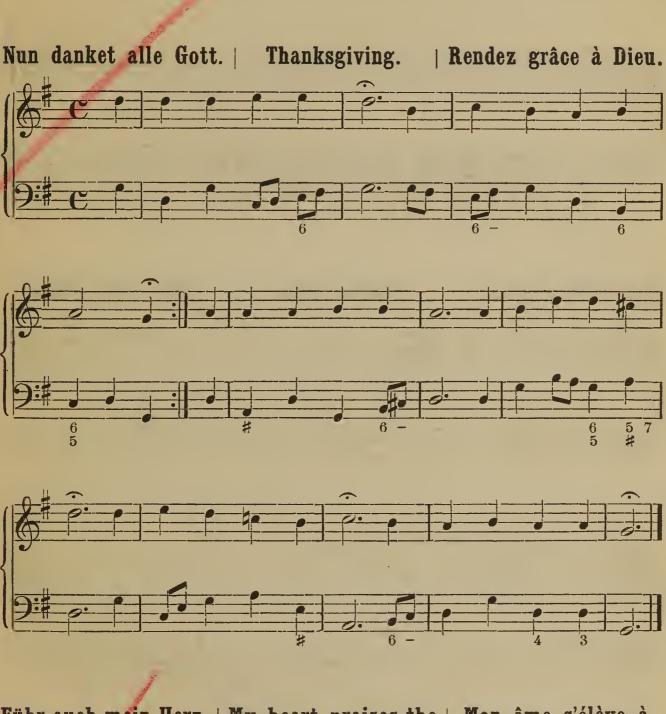




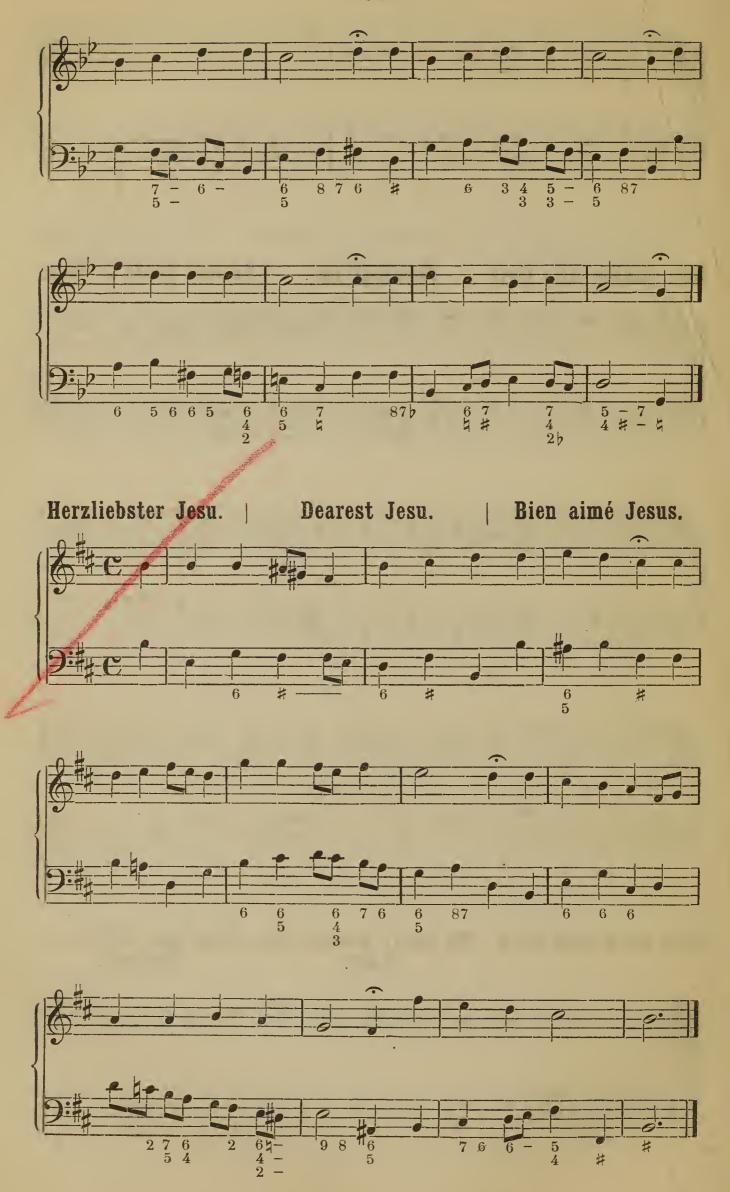


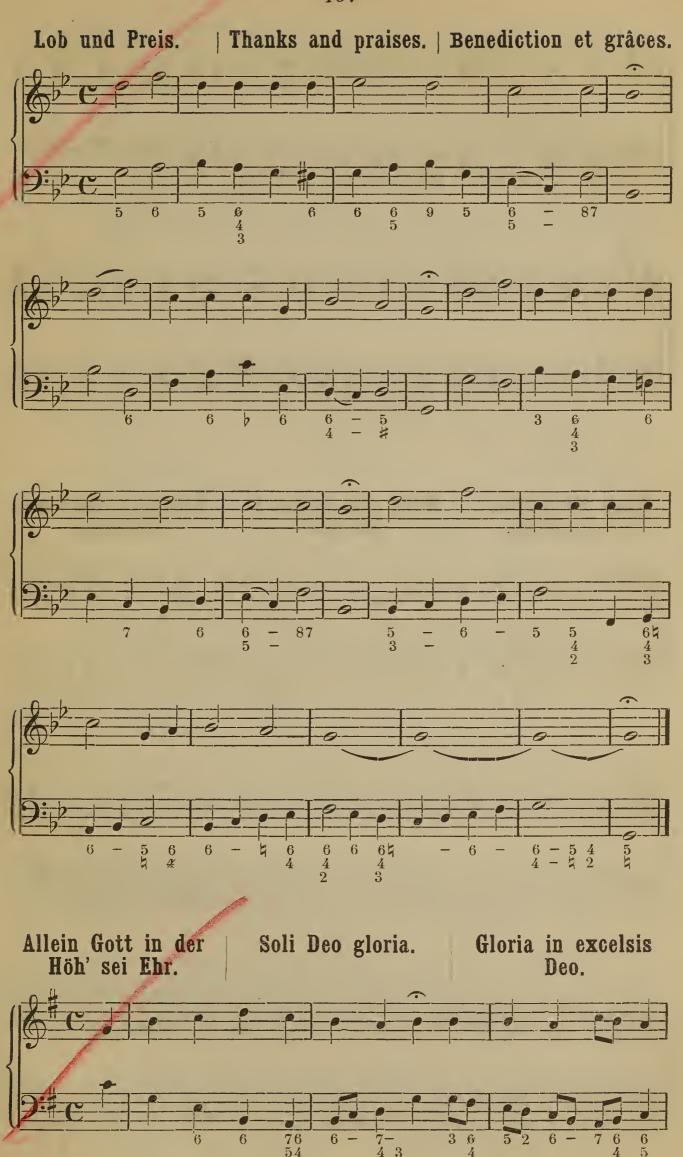


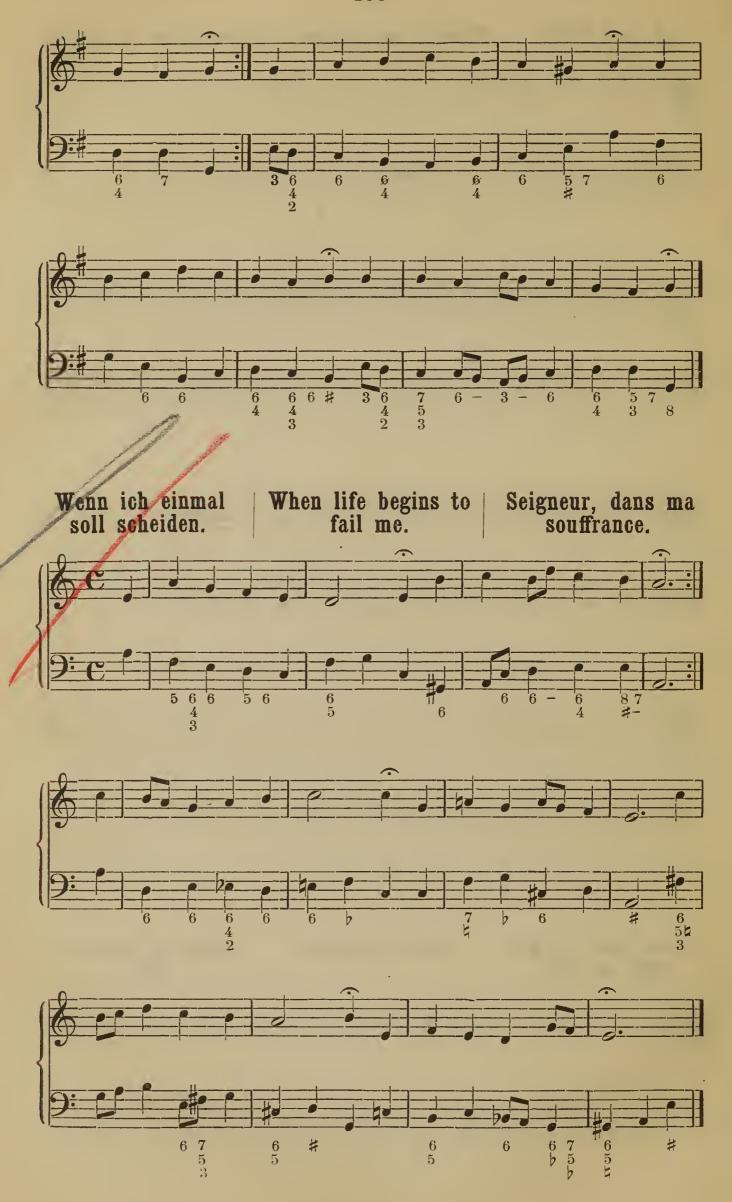








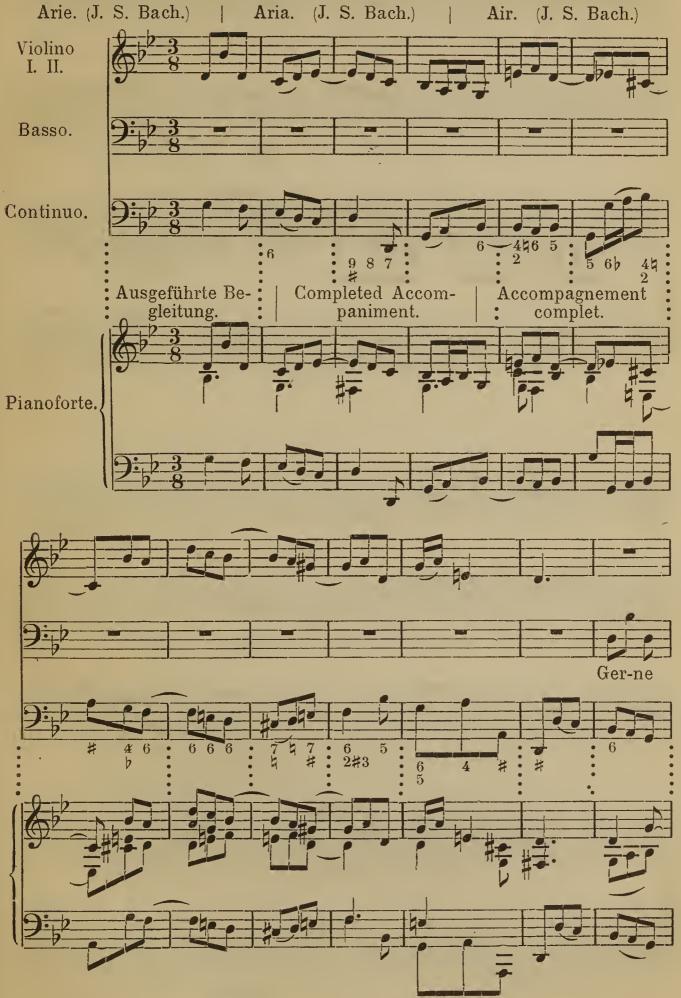


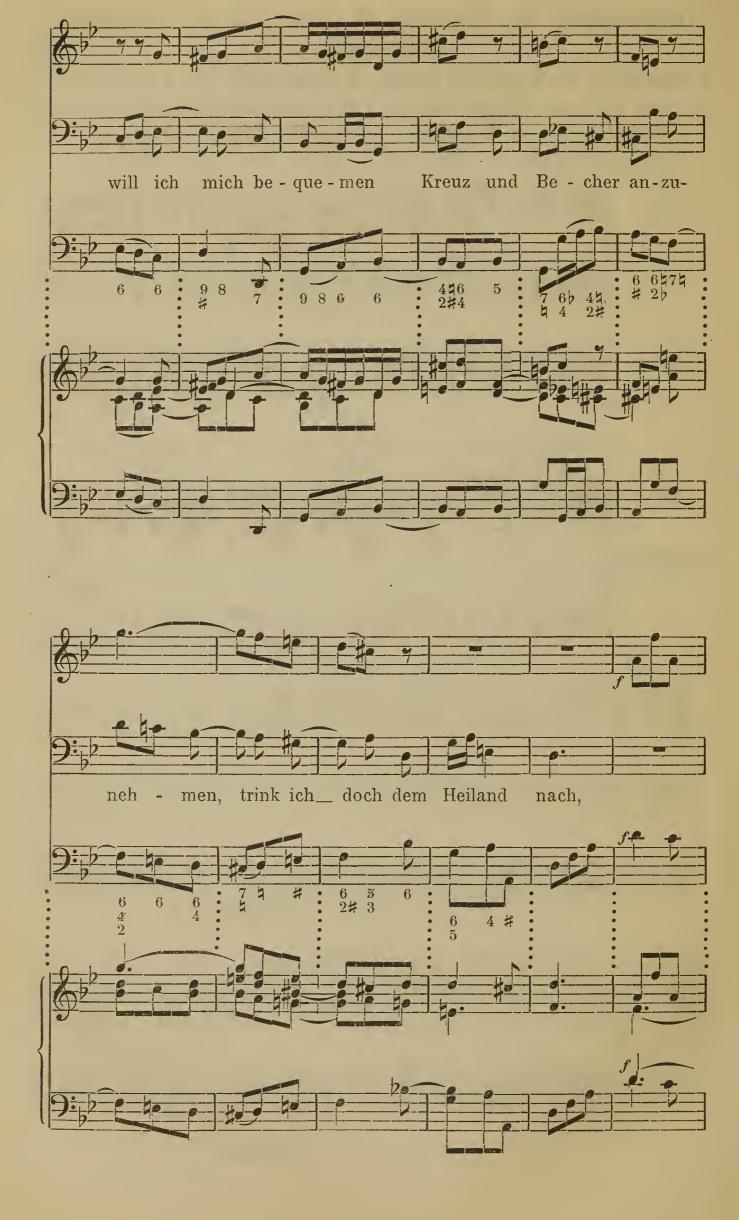


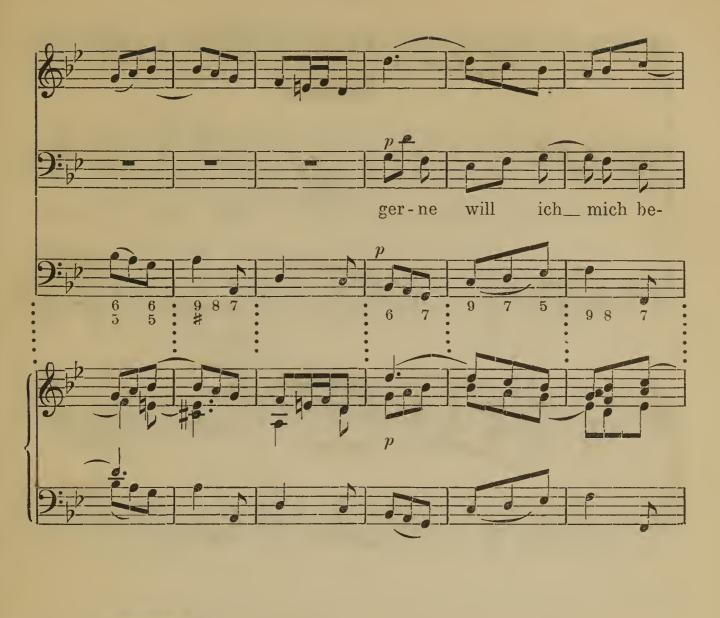
Hinzufügung der Harmonie in einer Arie mit obligatem Instrumente.

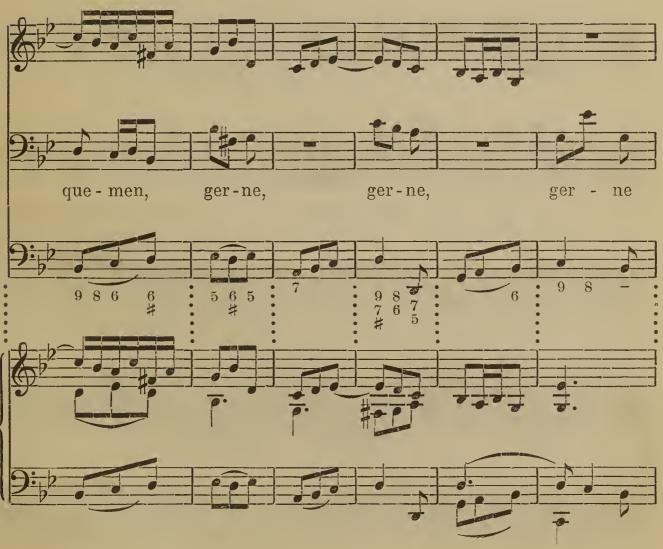
Completing the harmony where an aria and an obligato instrudium air dans lequel un instrumental part is indicated.

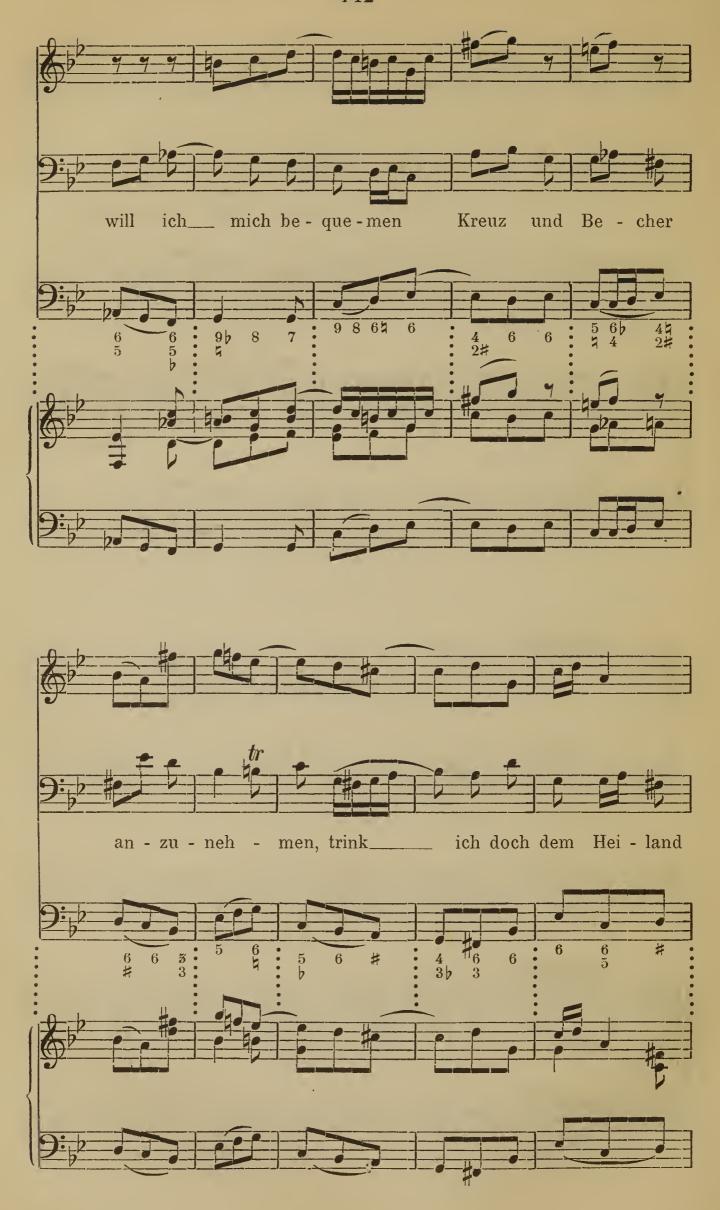
Complément de l'harmonie d'un air dans lequel un instrument obligé est indiqué.

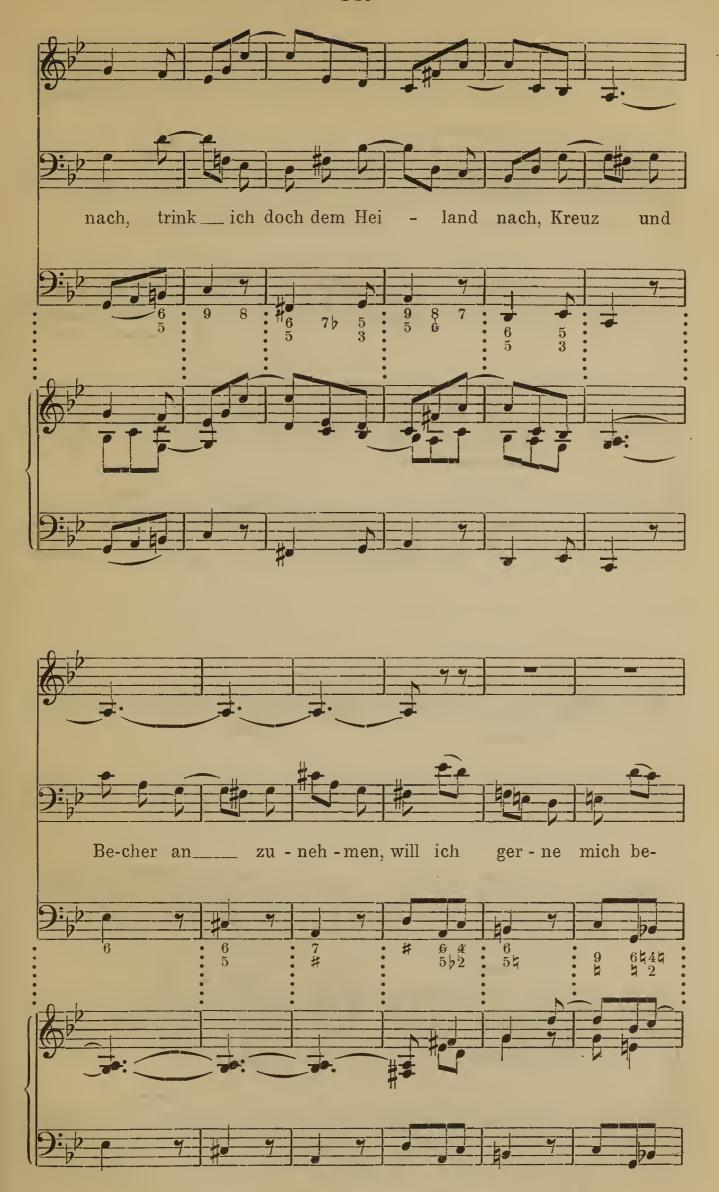


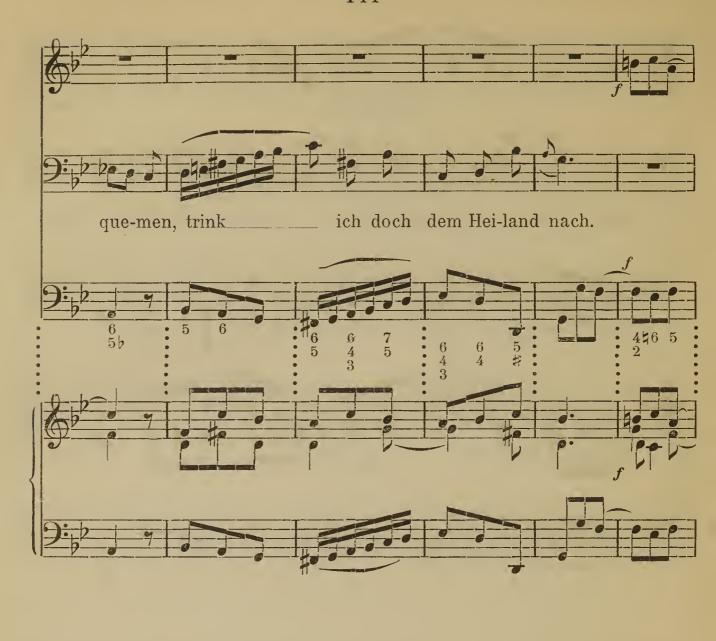


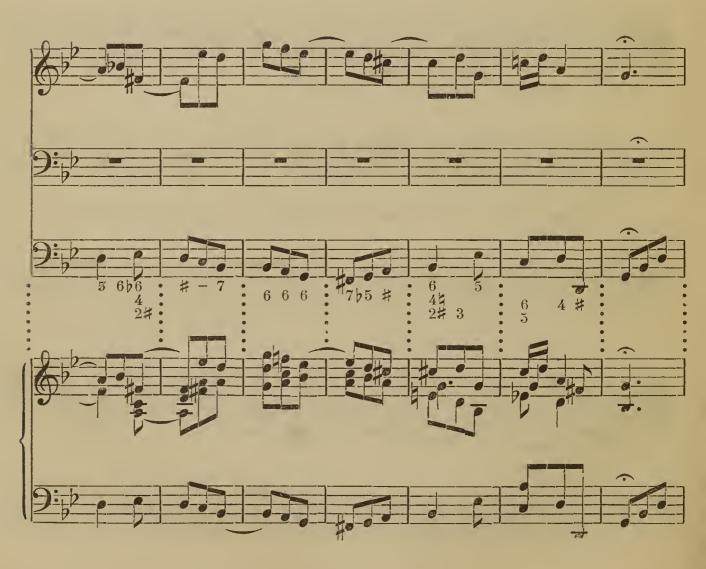






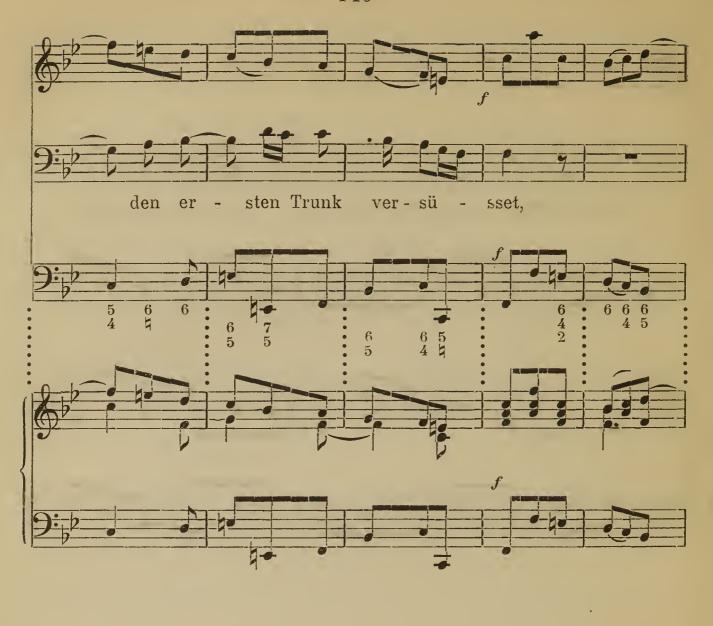


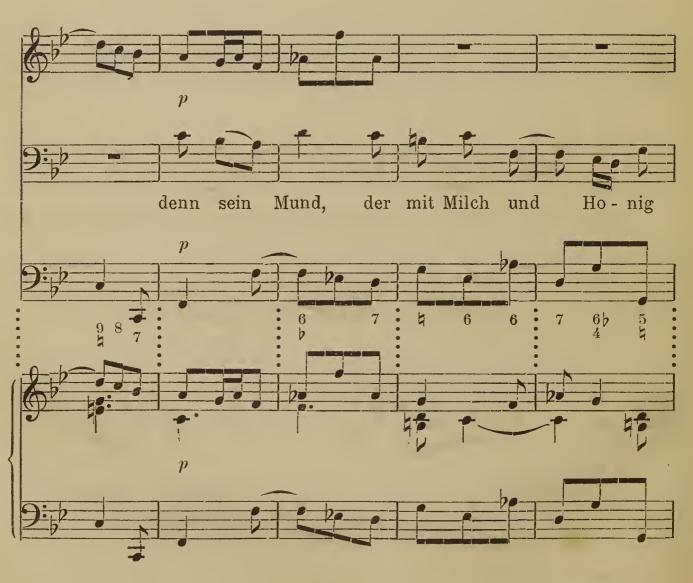


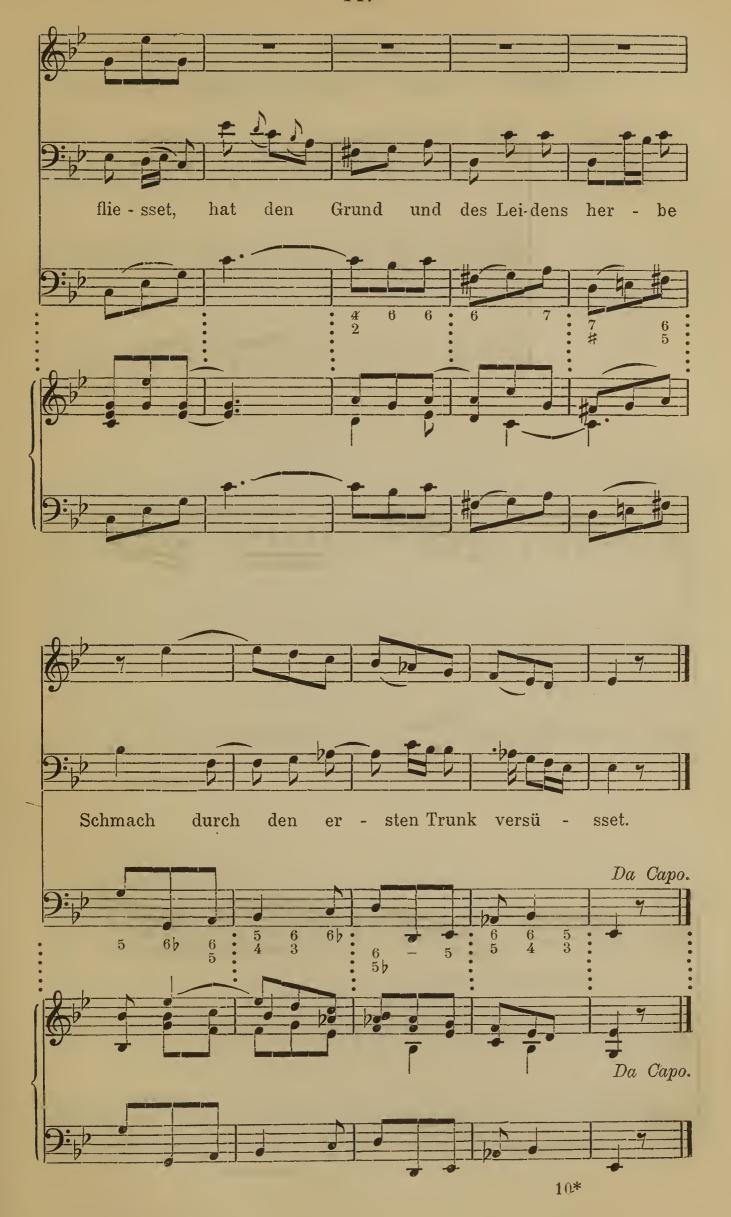


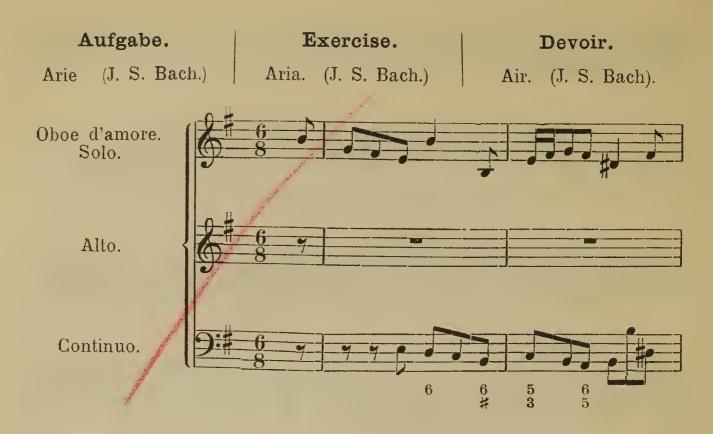










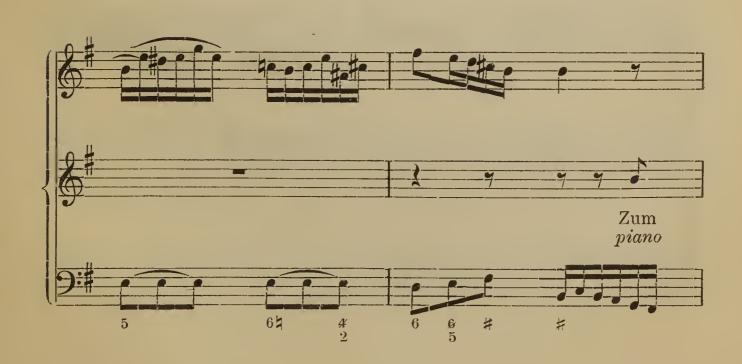


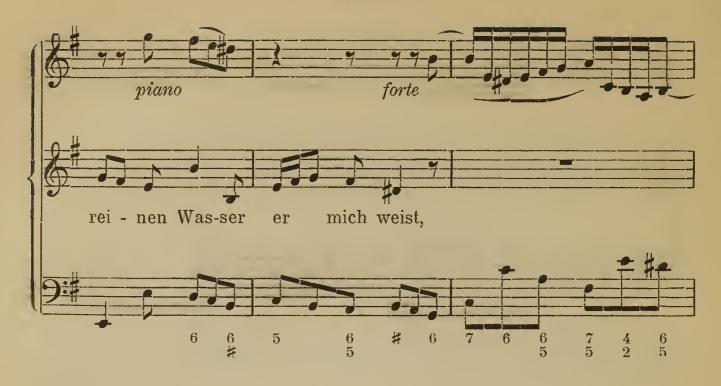












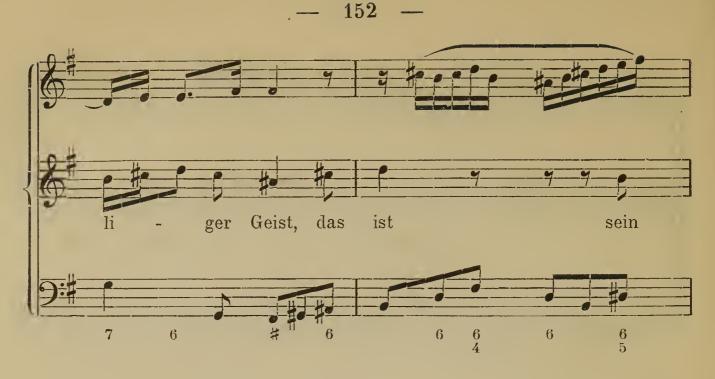








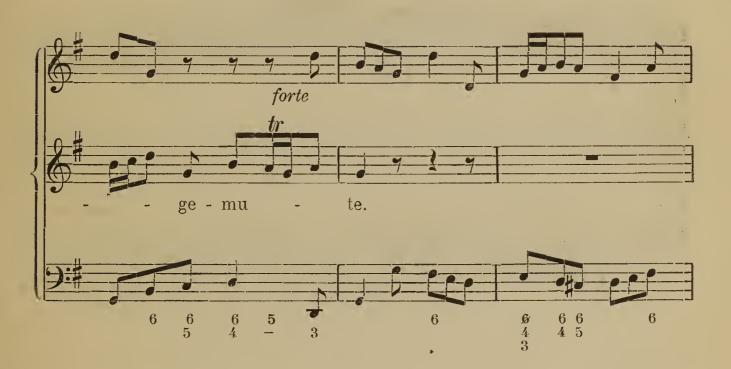
























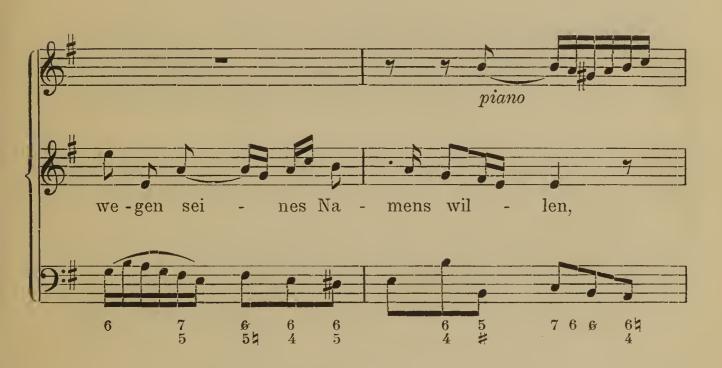


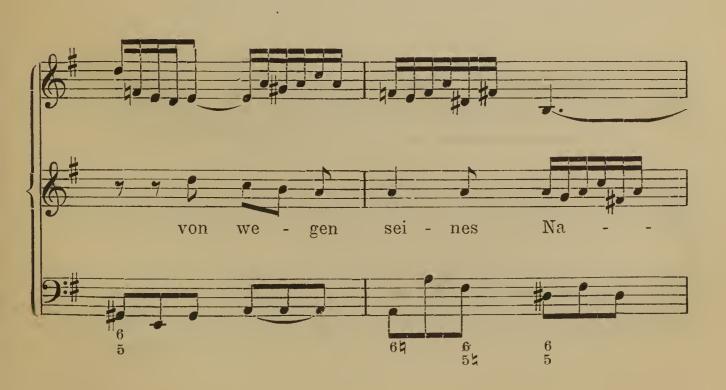










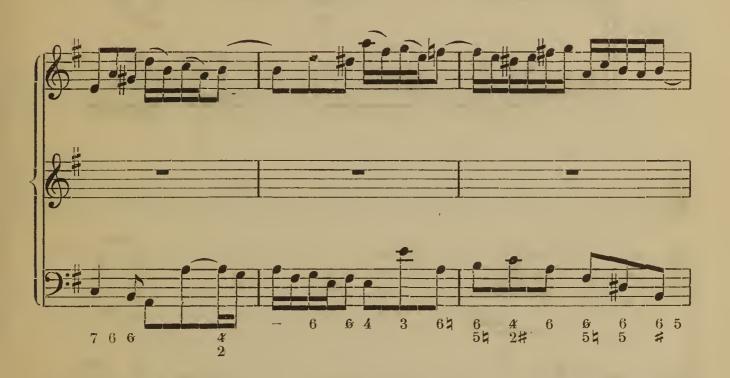


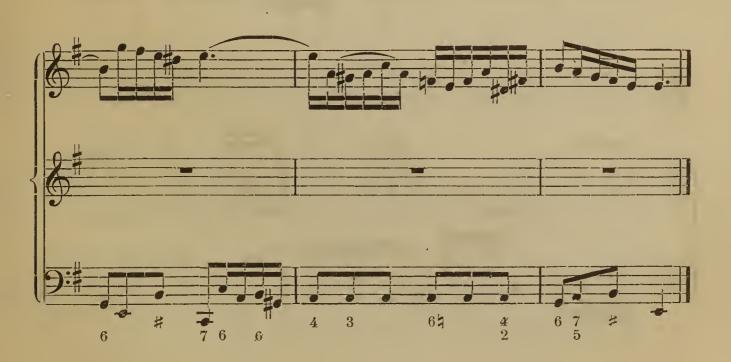








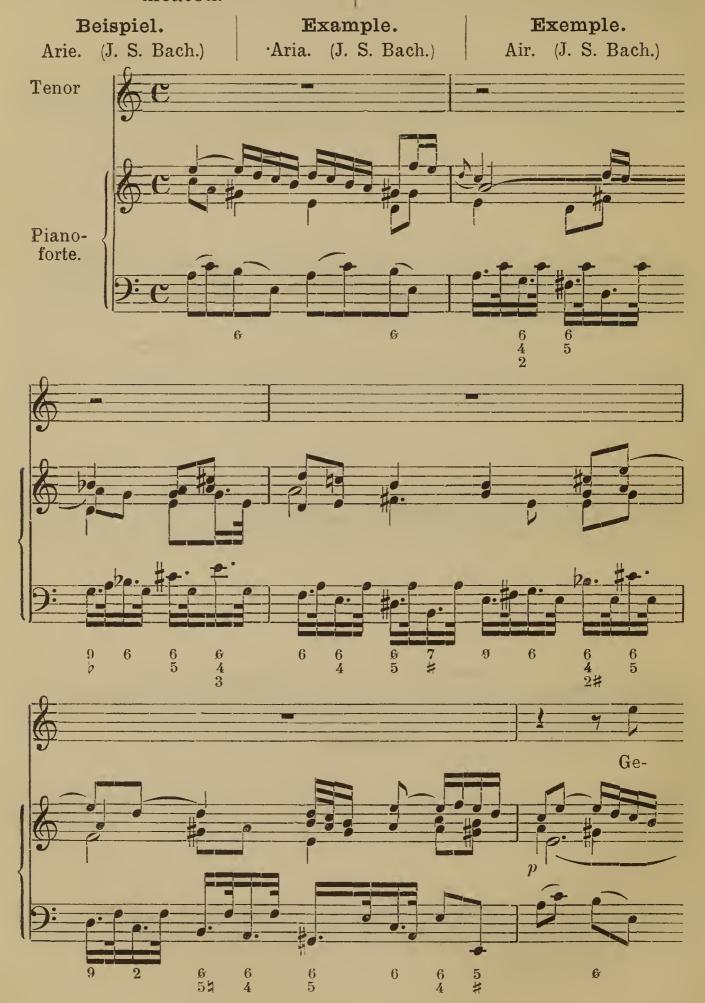




Begleitung einer Arie. Nur der Tenor-Gesangpart und der bezifferte Bass sind angezeigt.

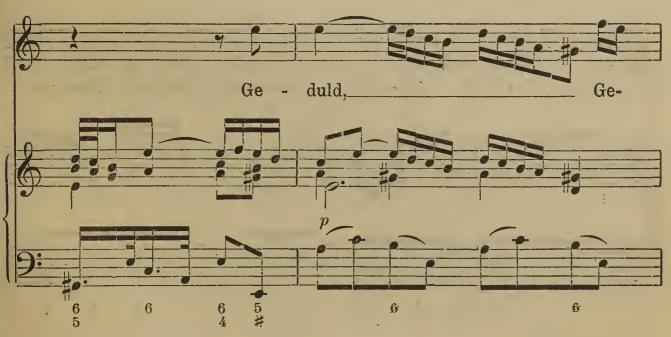
Accompaniment of an Aria. | Accompagnement d'un air; la Only the Tenor-Singing part basse chiffrée indique seuleand the figured Bass are indicated.

ment l'harmonie.

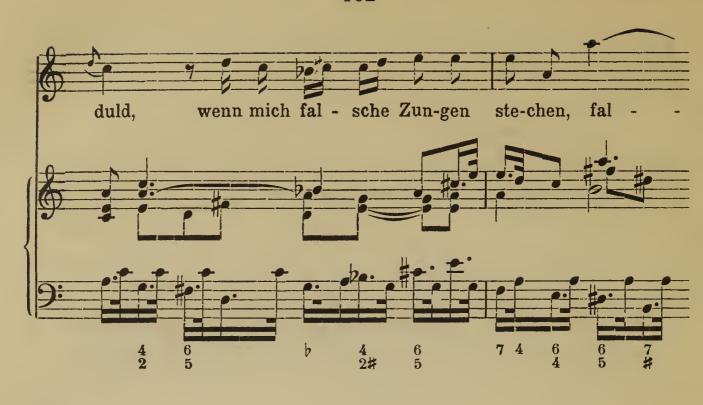




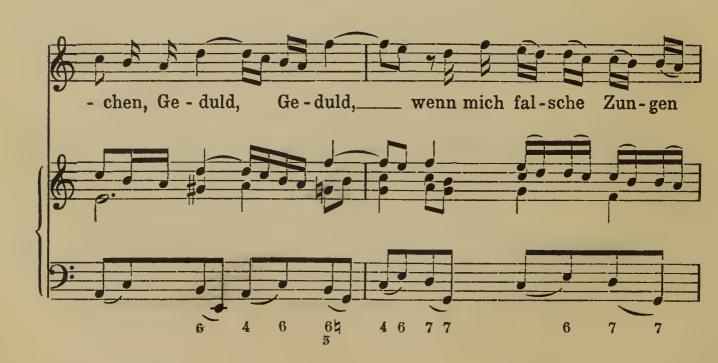




Jadassohn, Generalbass.











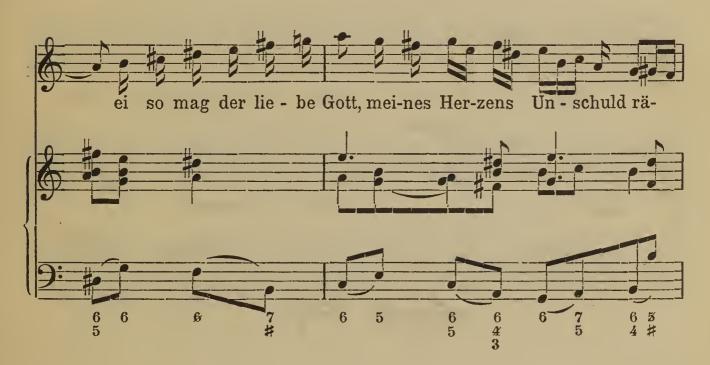










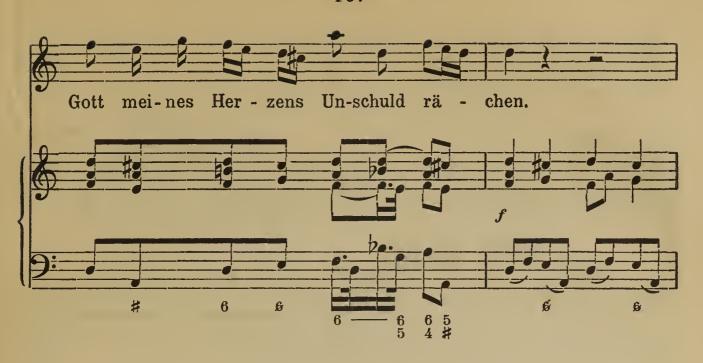






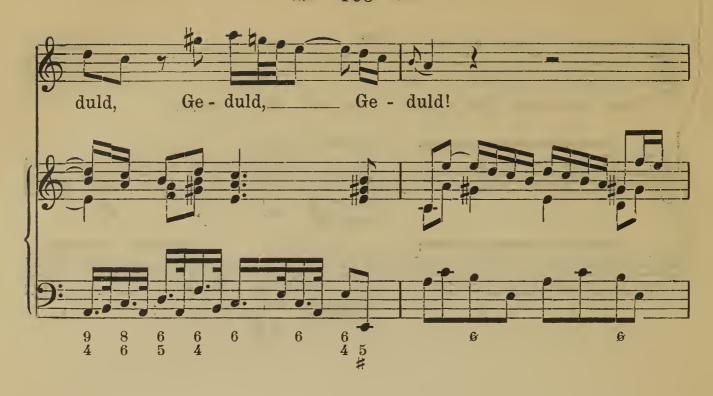






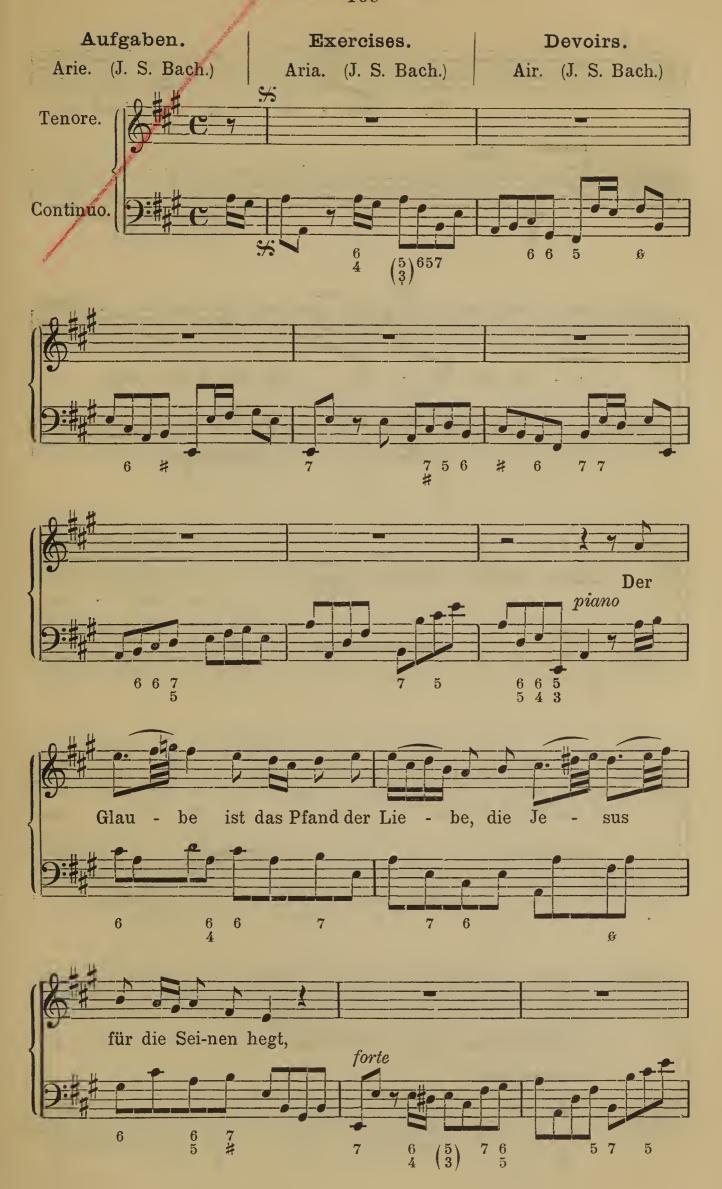


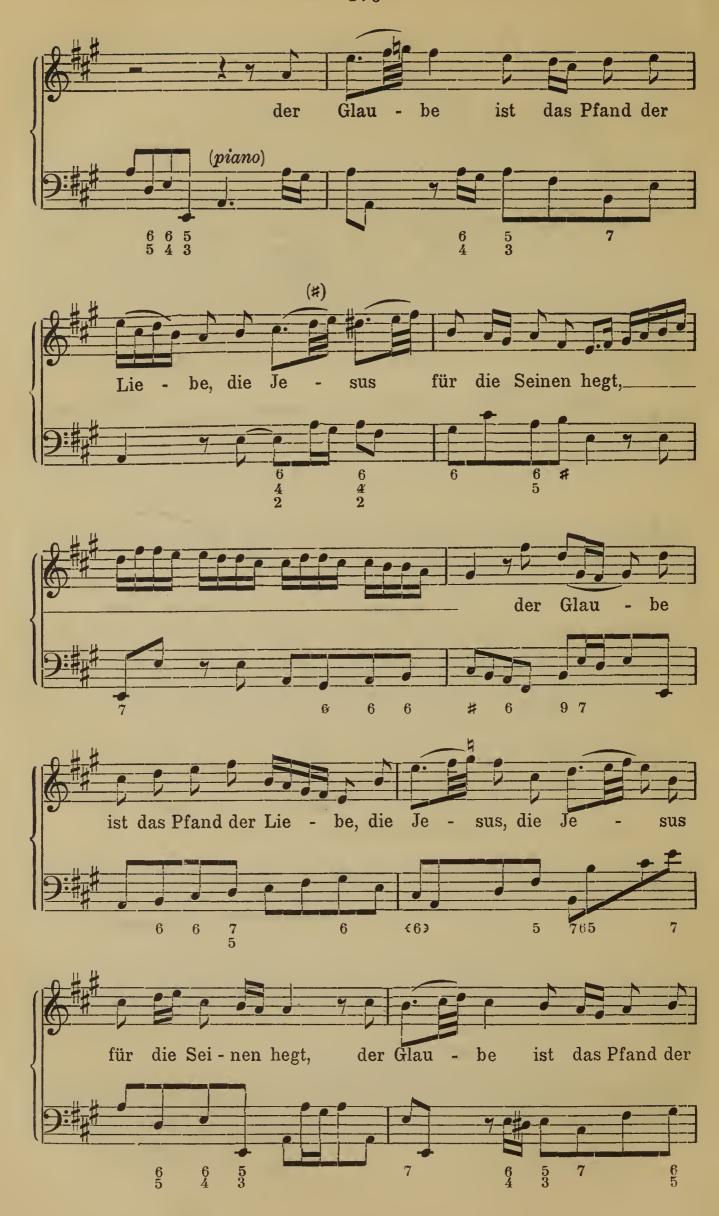


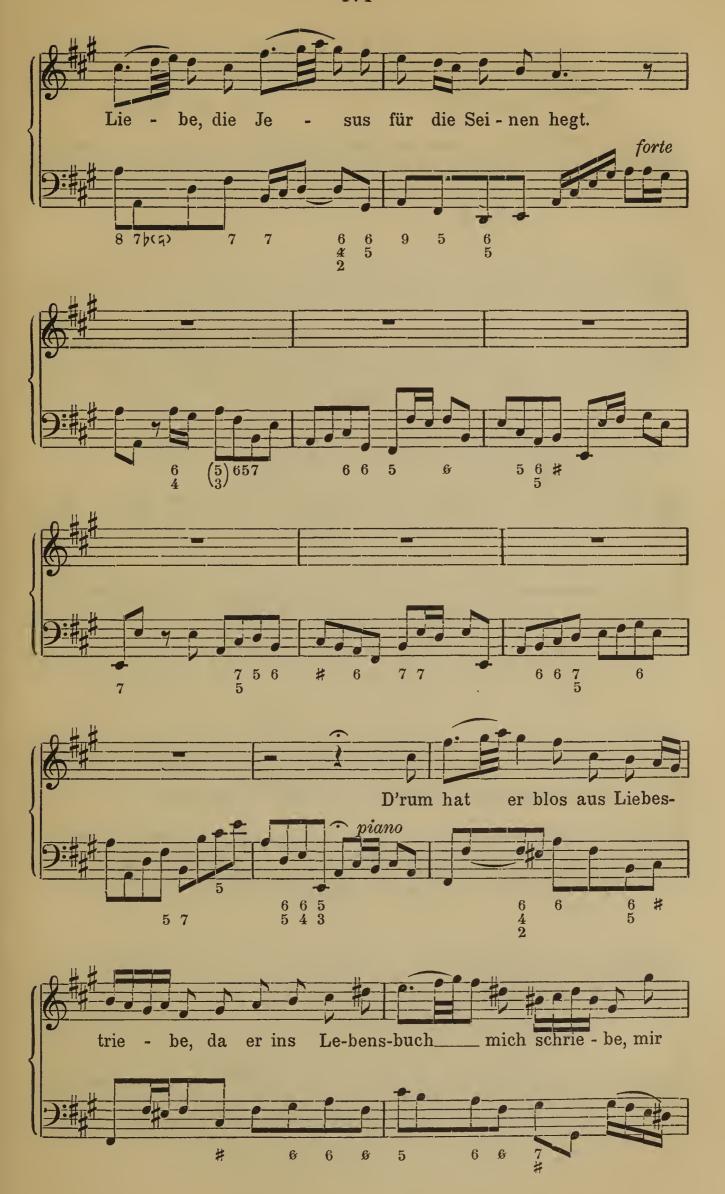


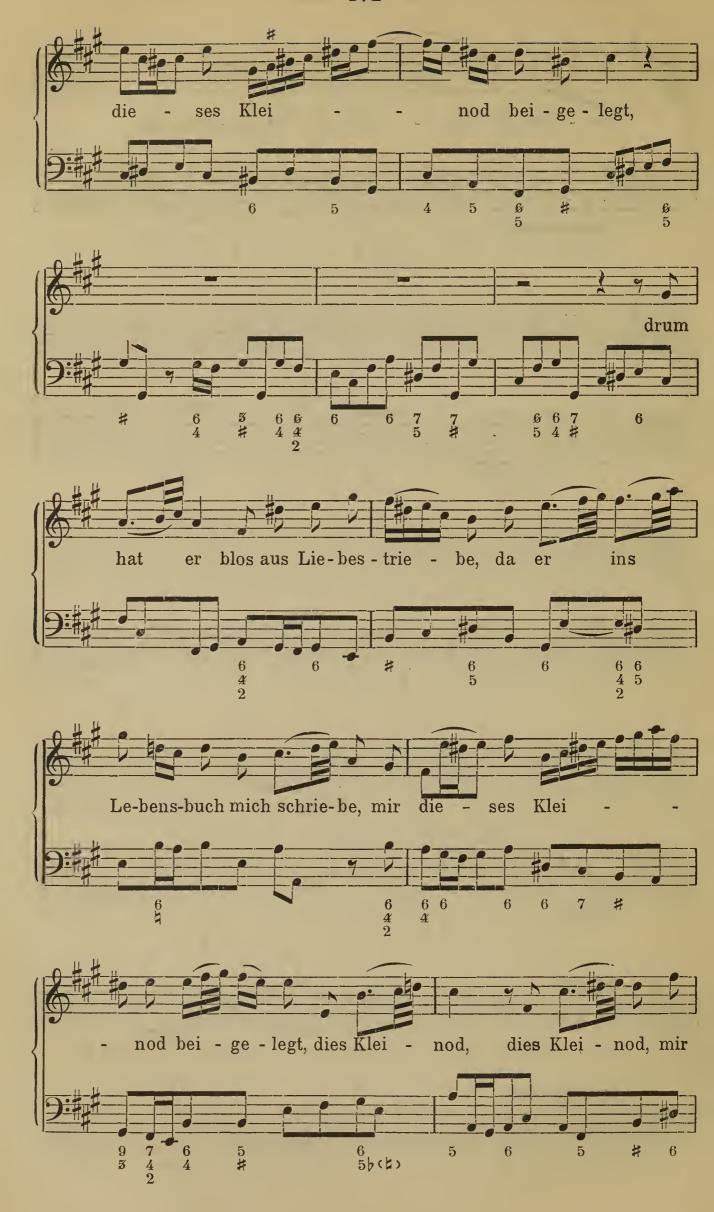


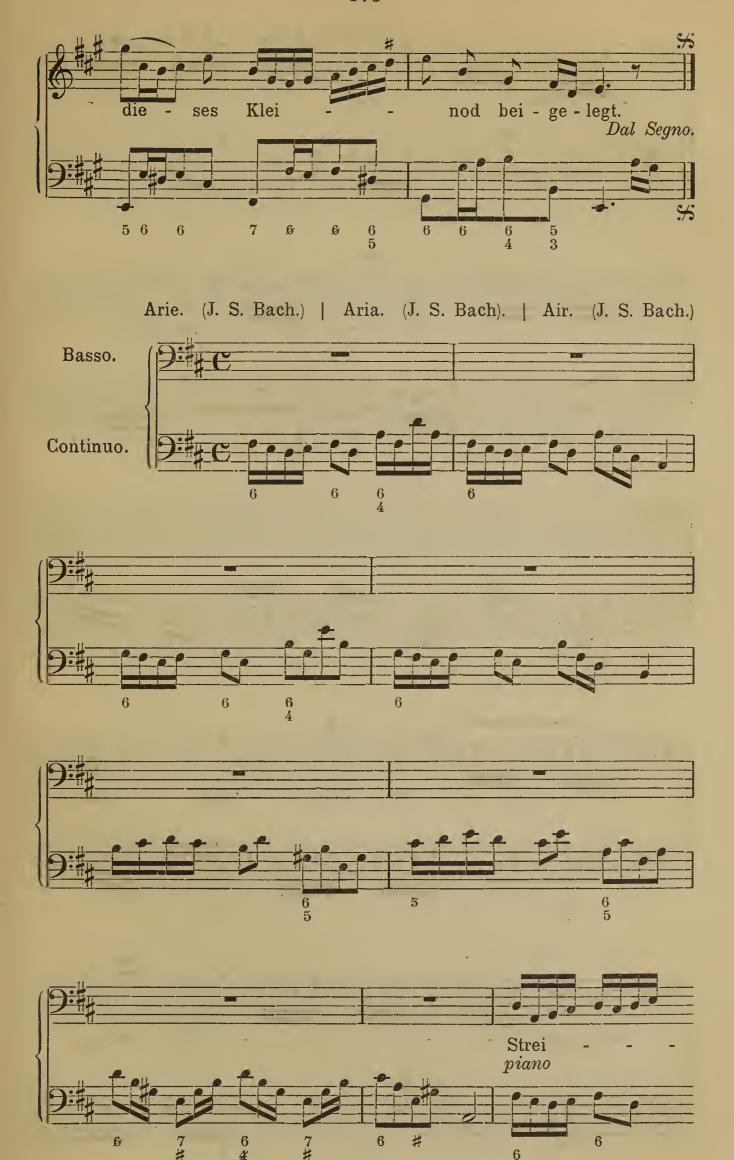


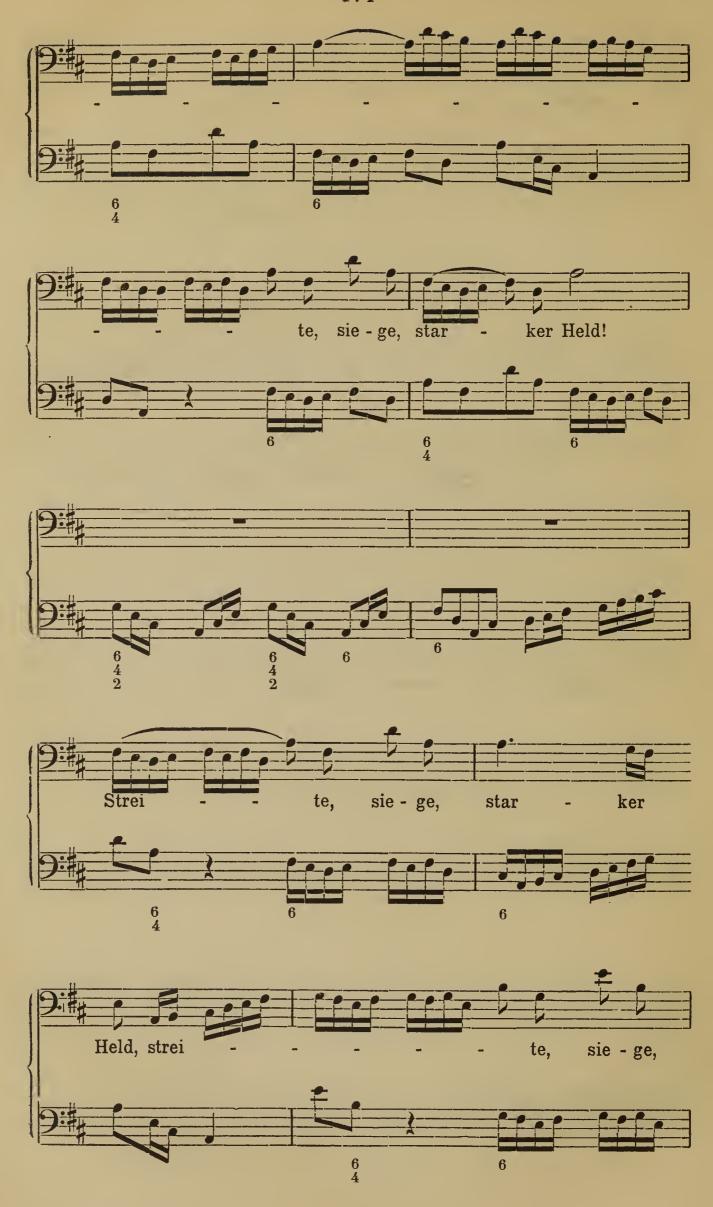


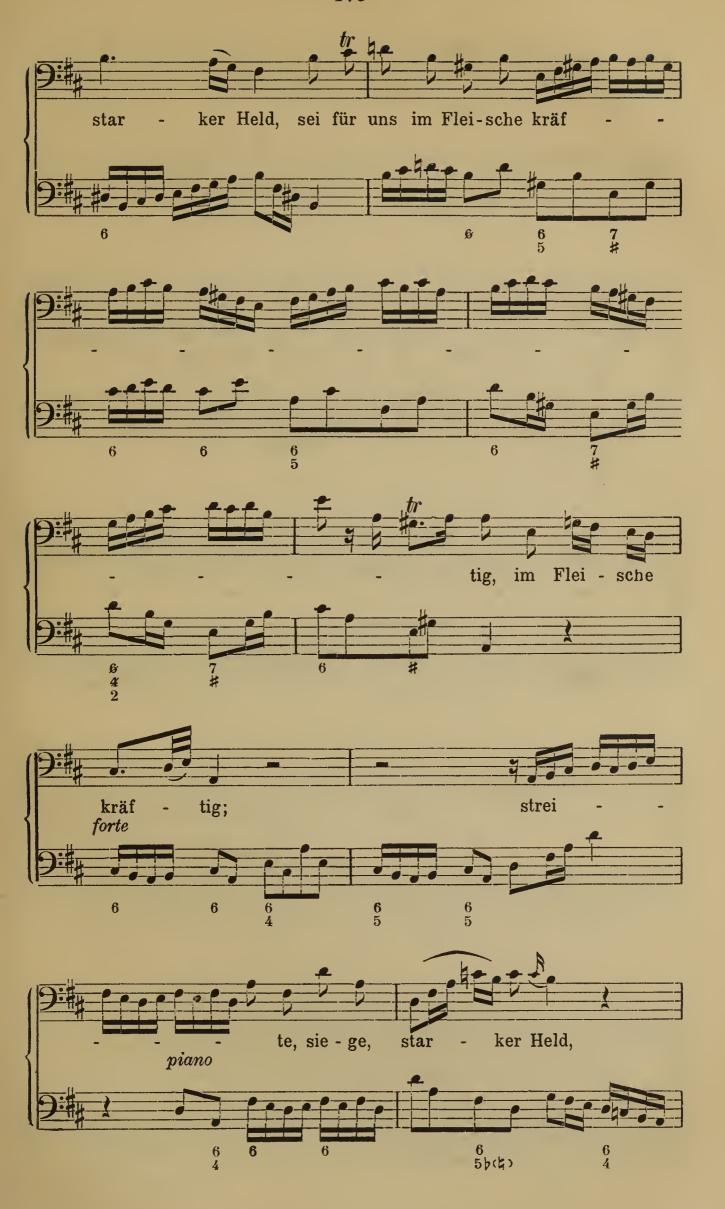


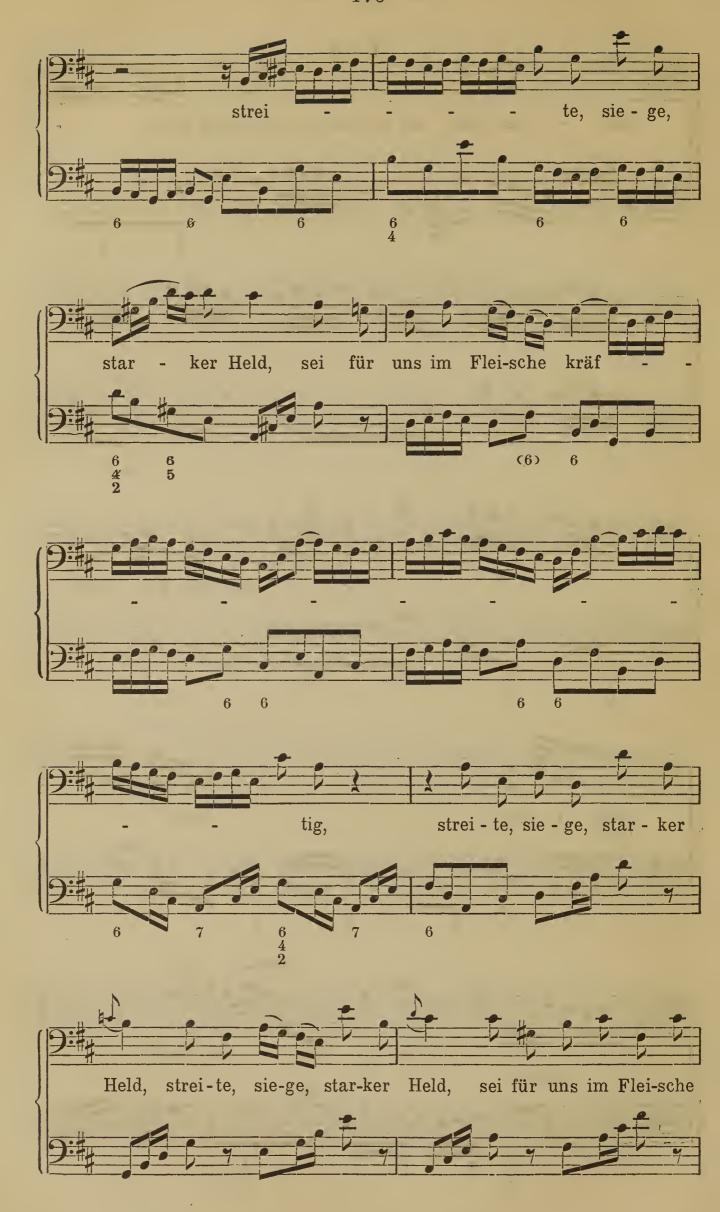


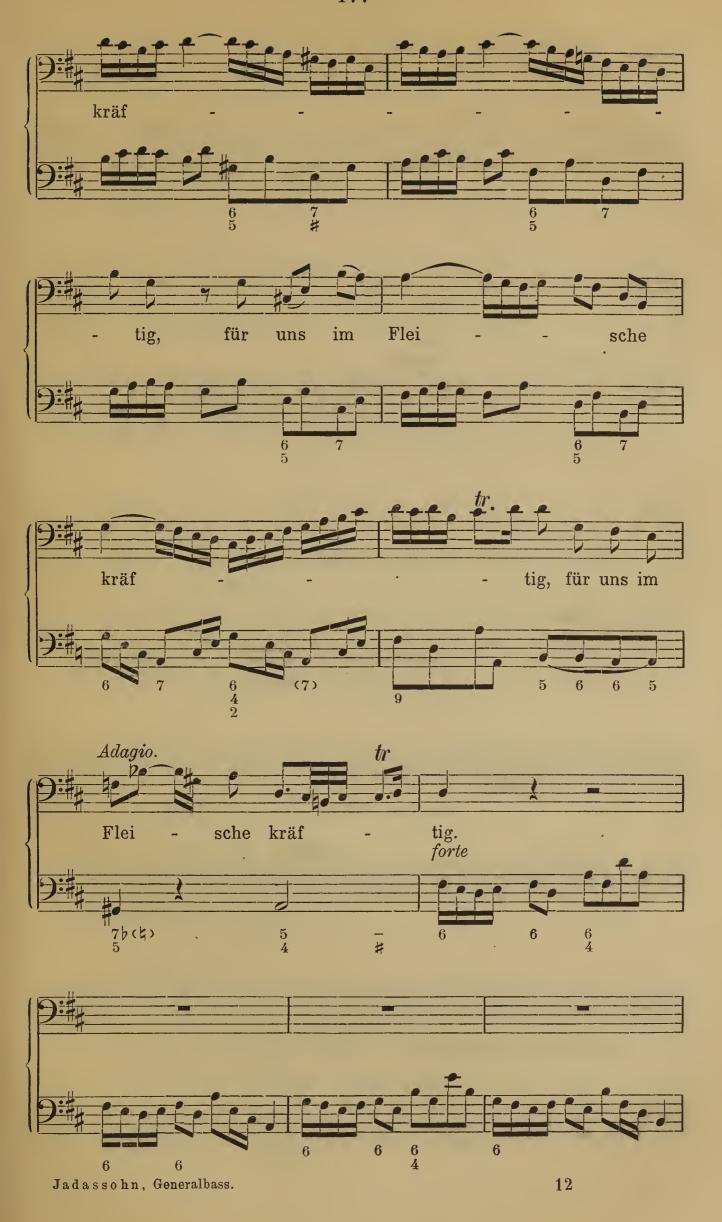


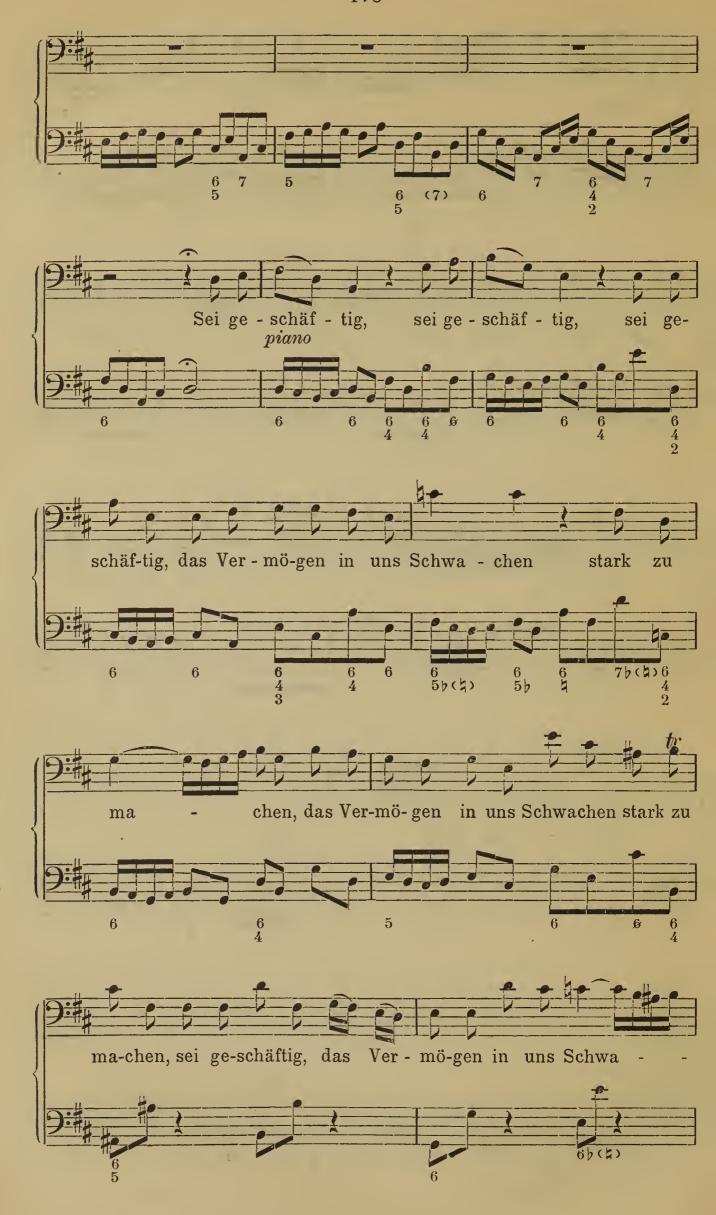


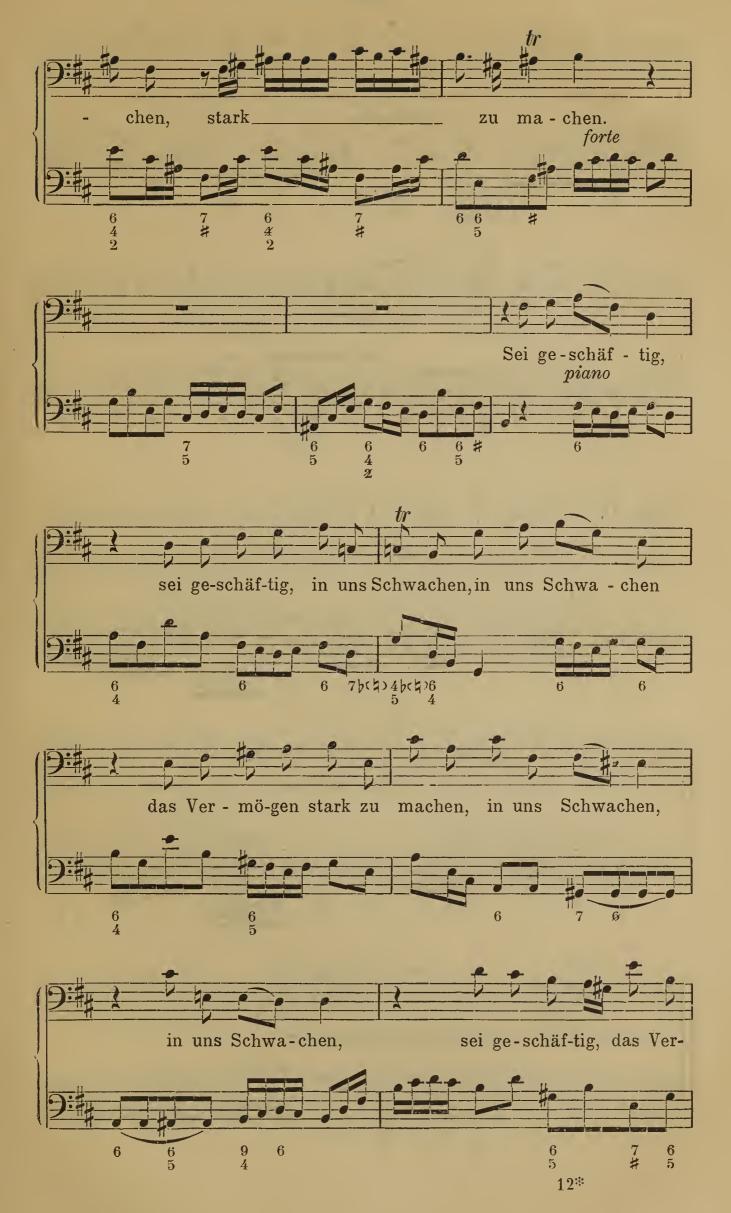


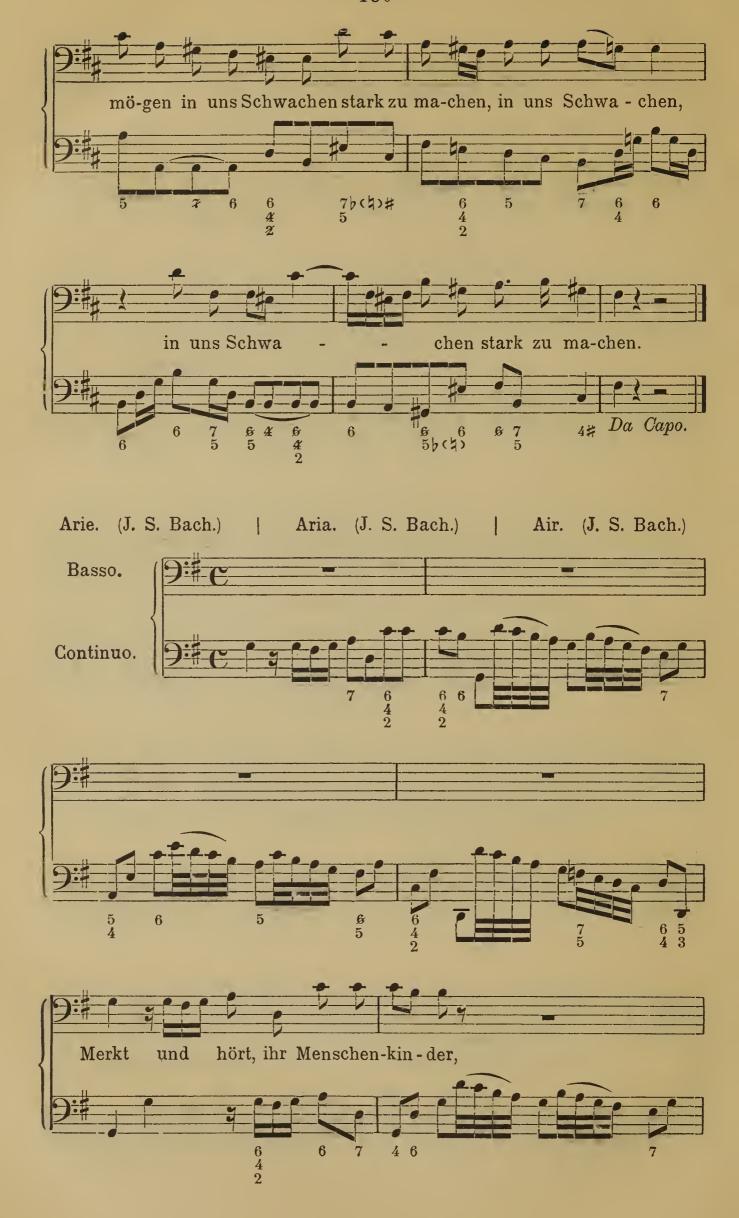


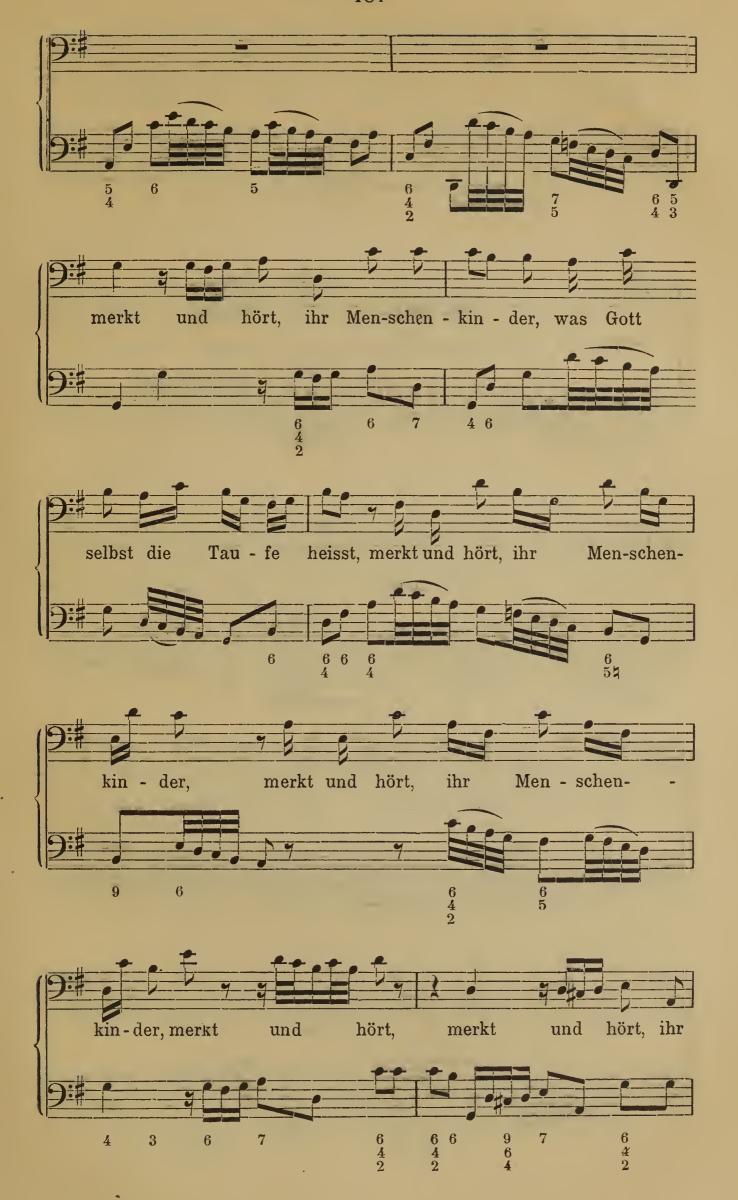


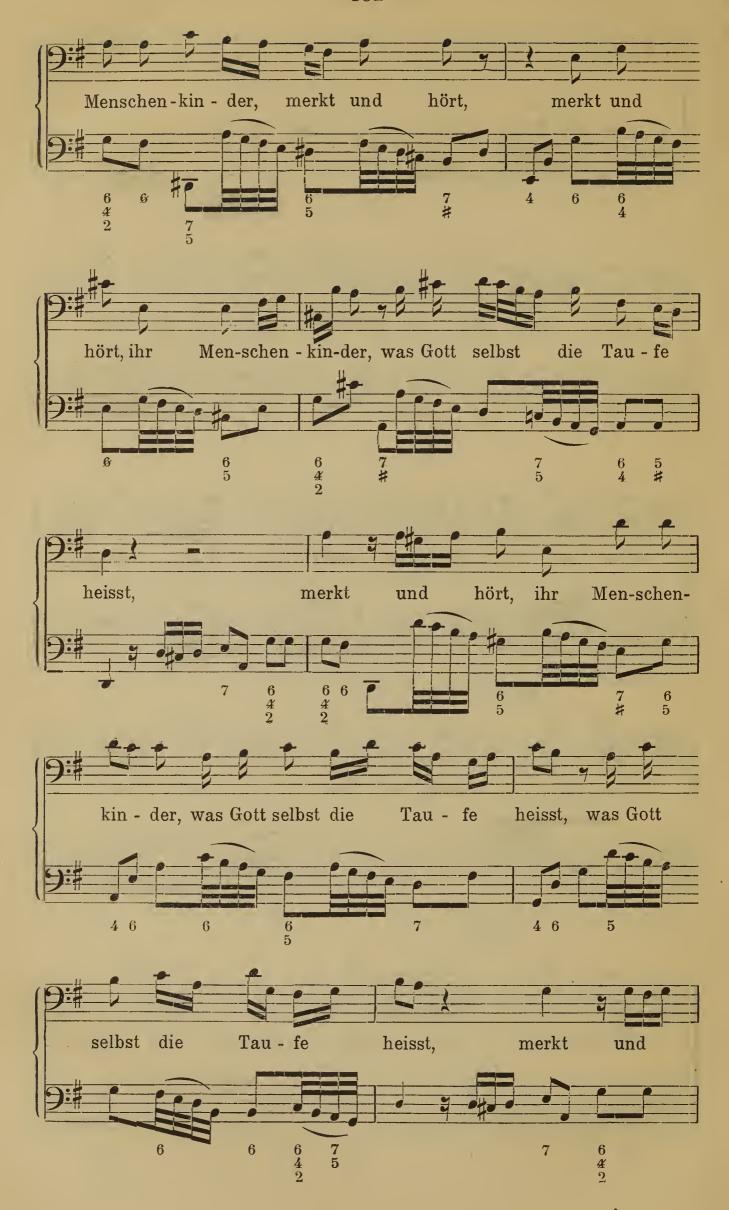


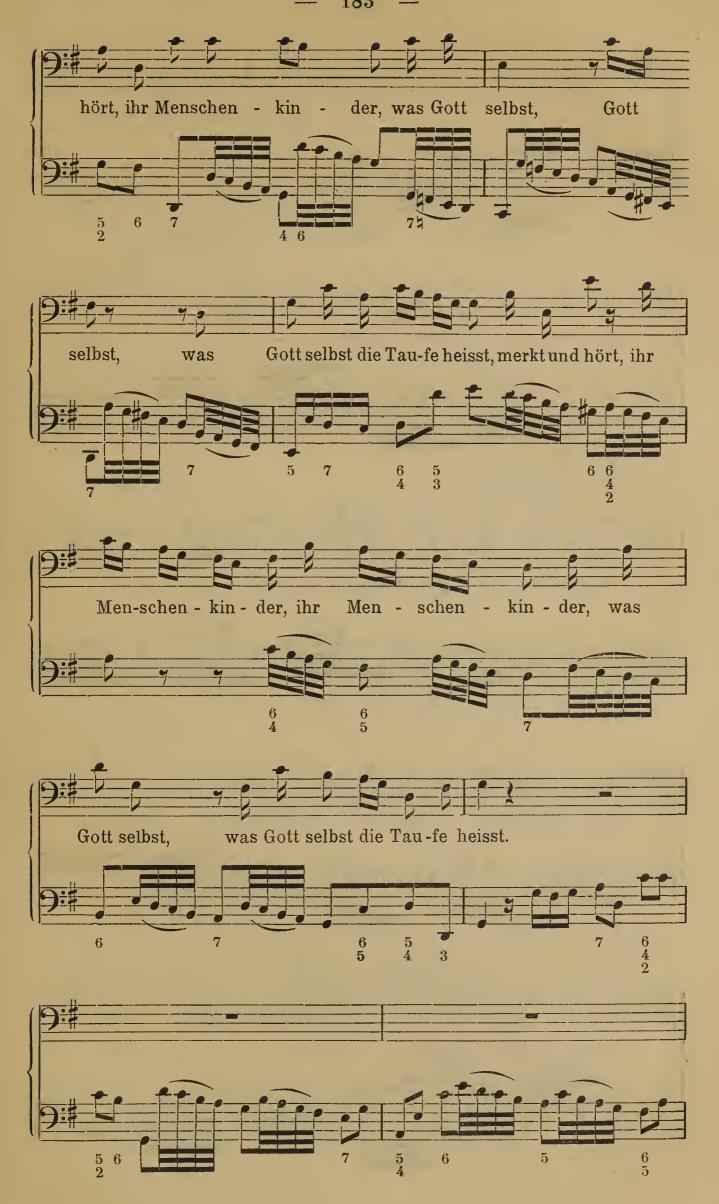


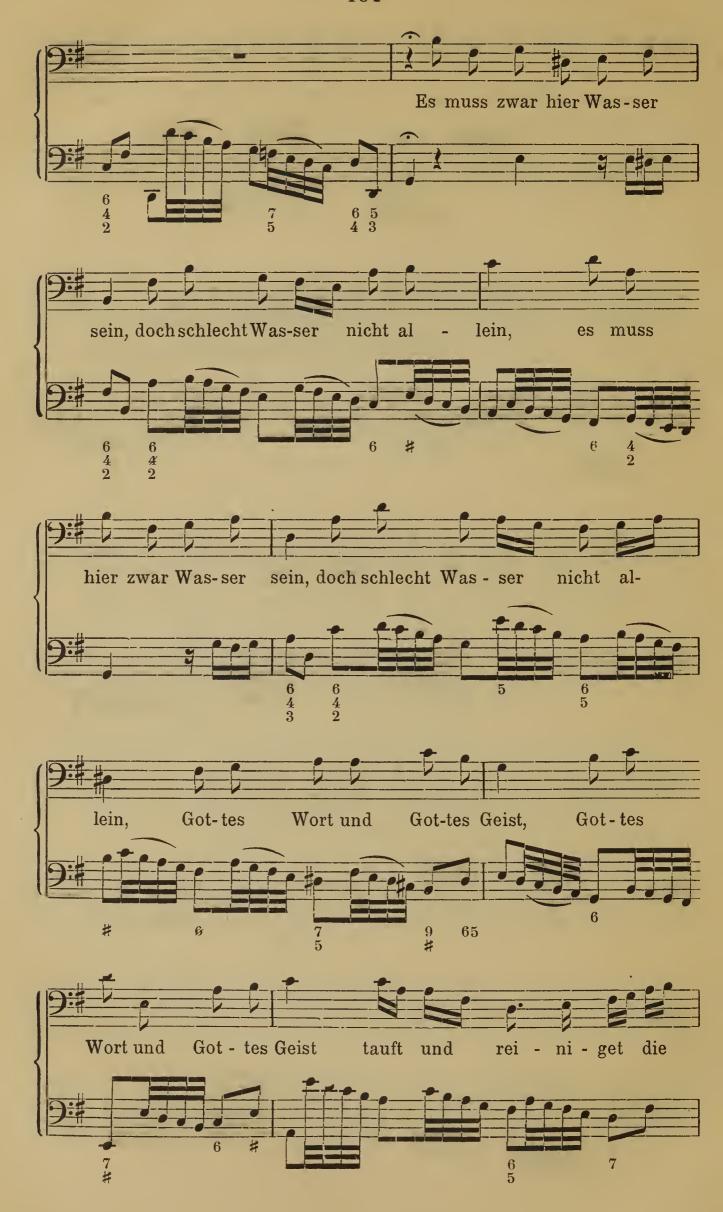


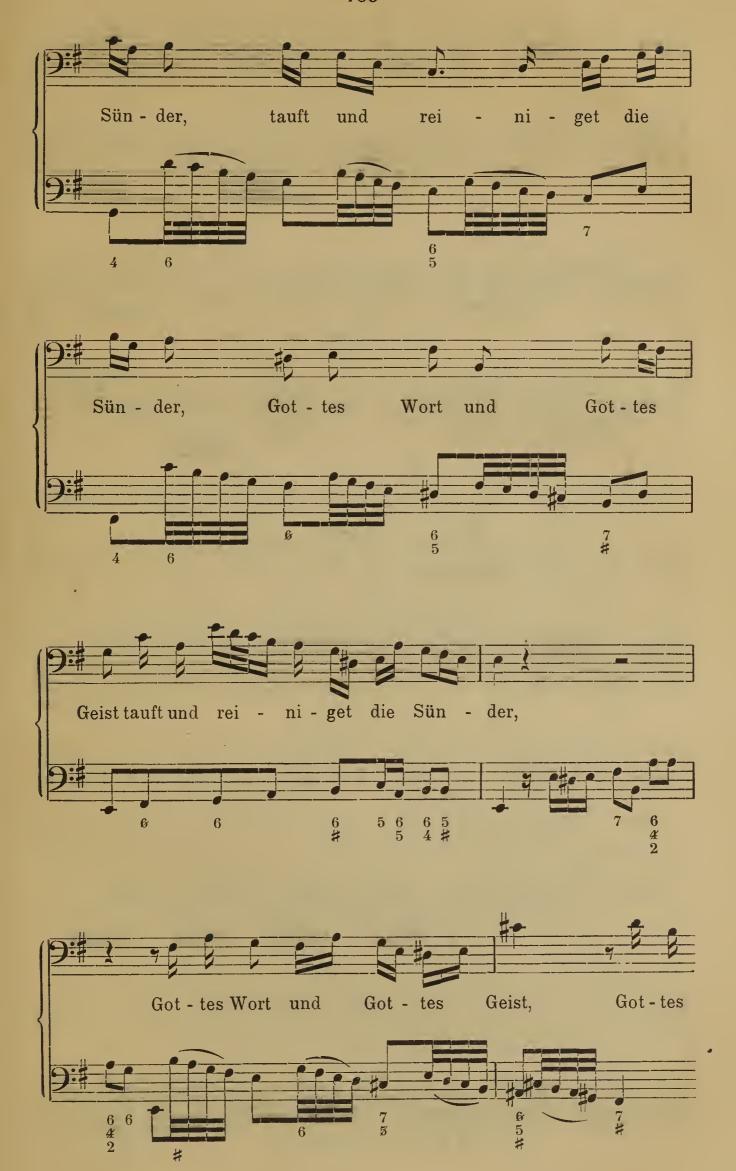


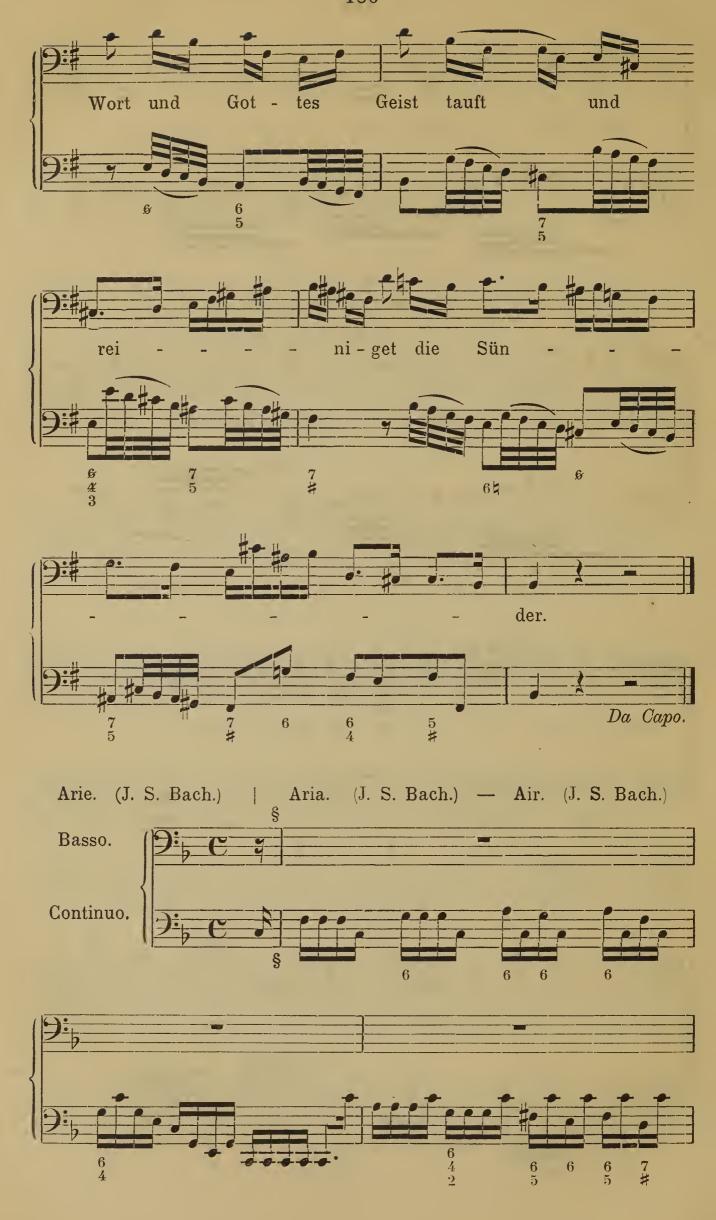


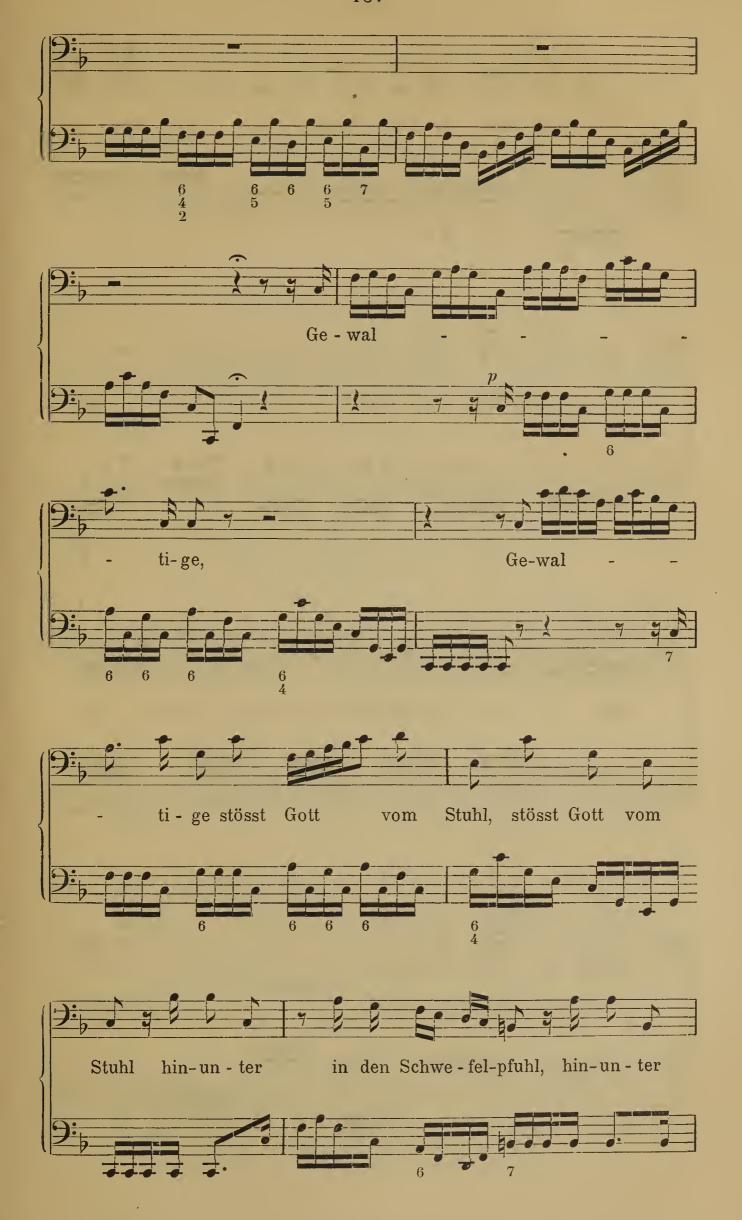


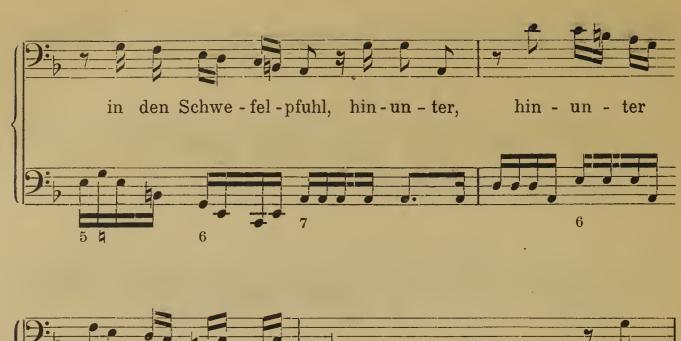


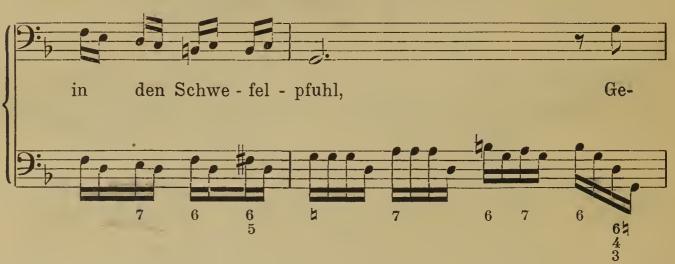


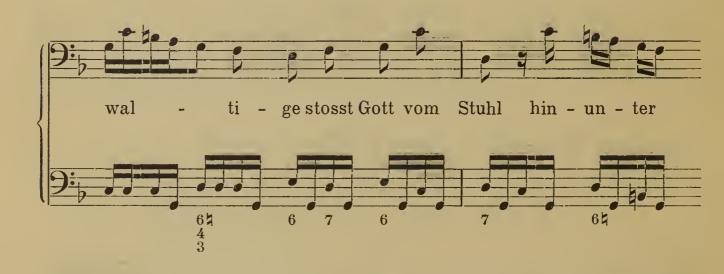




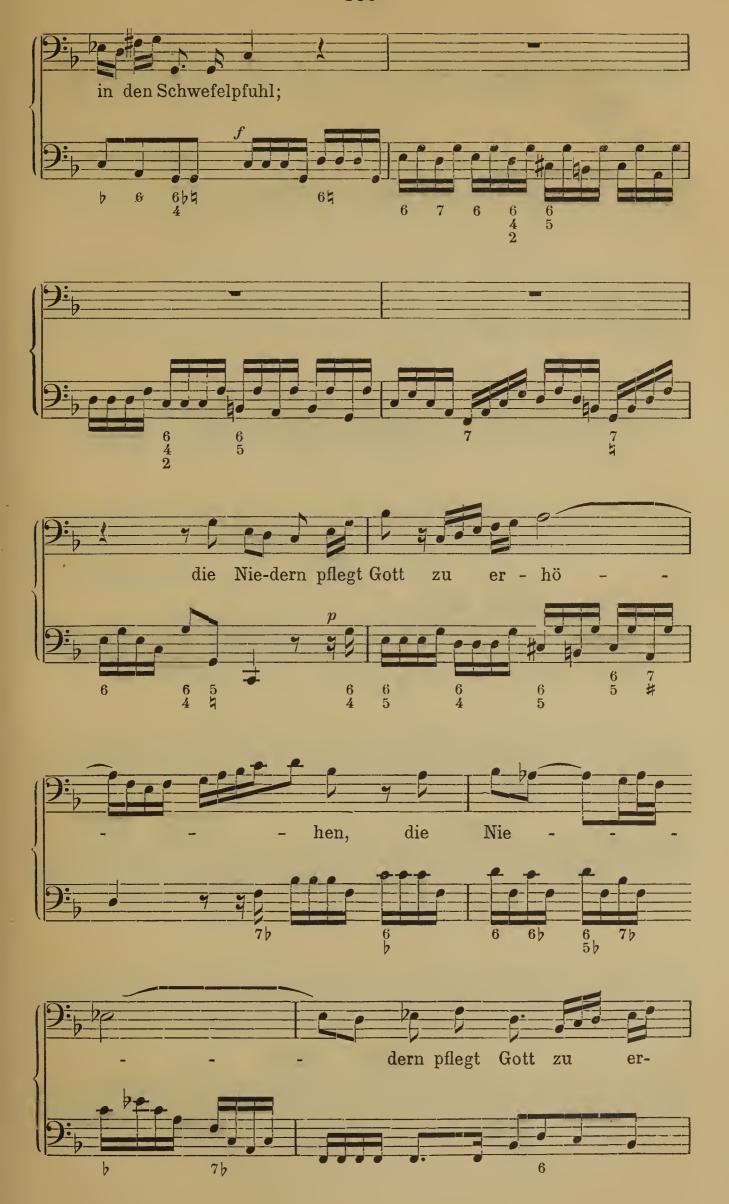


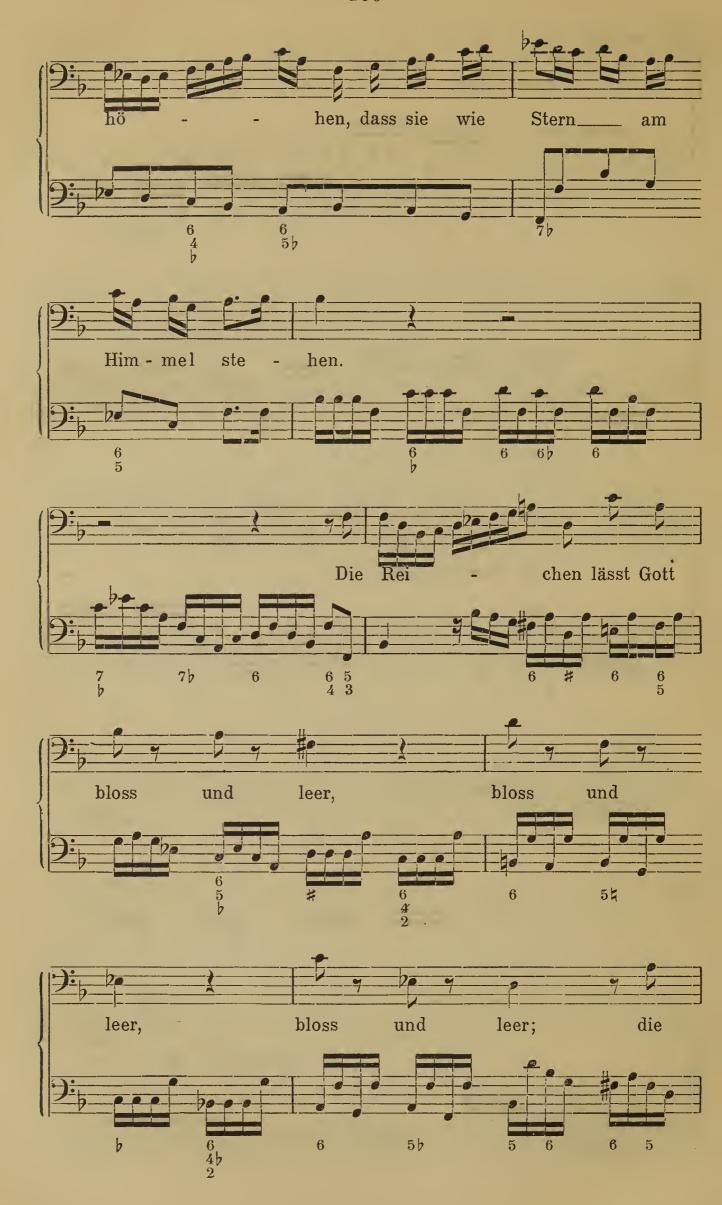


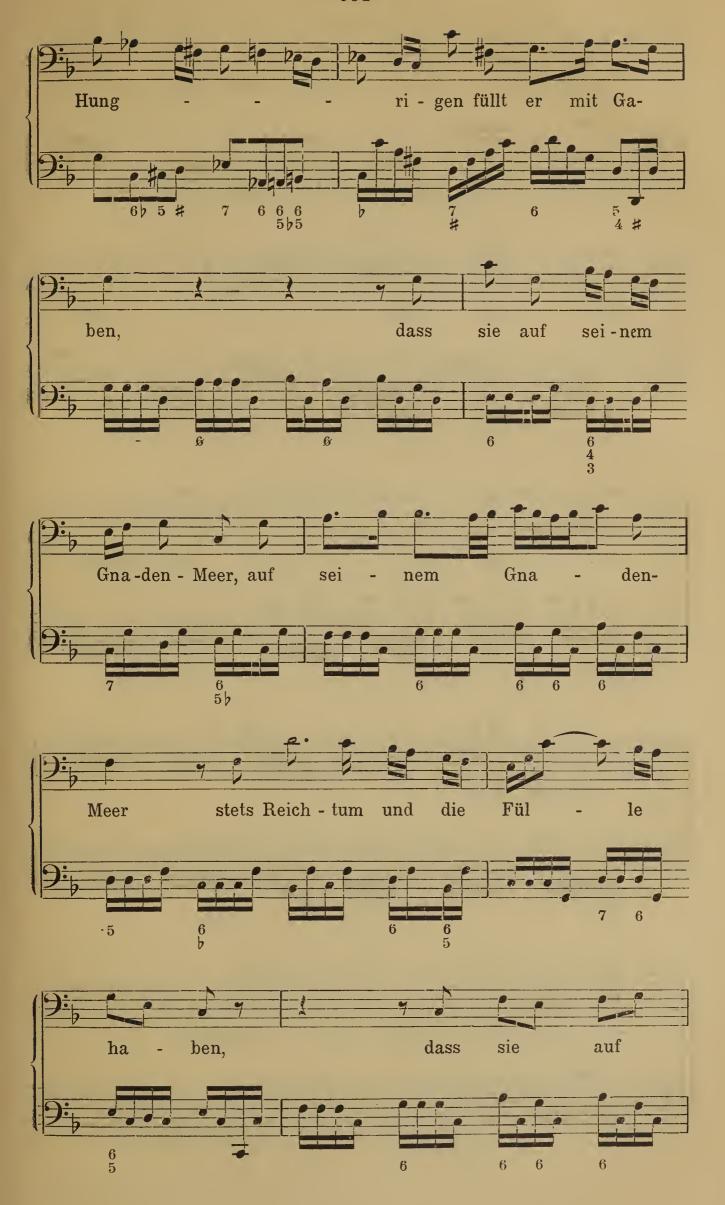


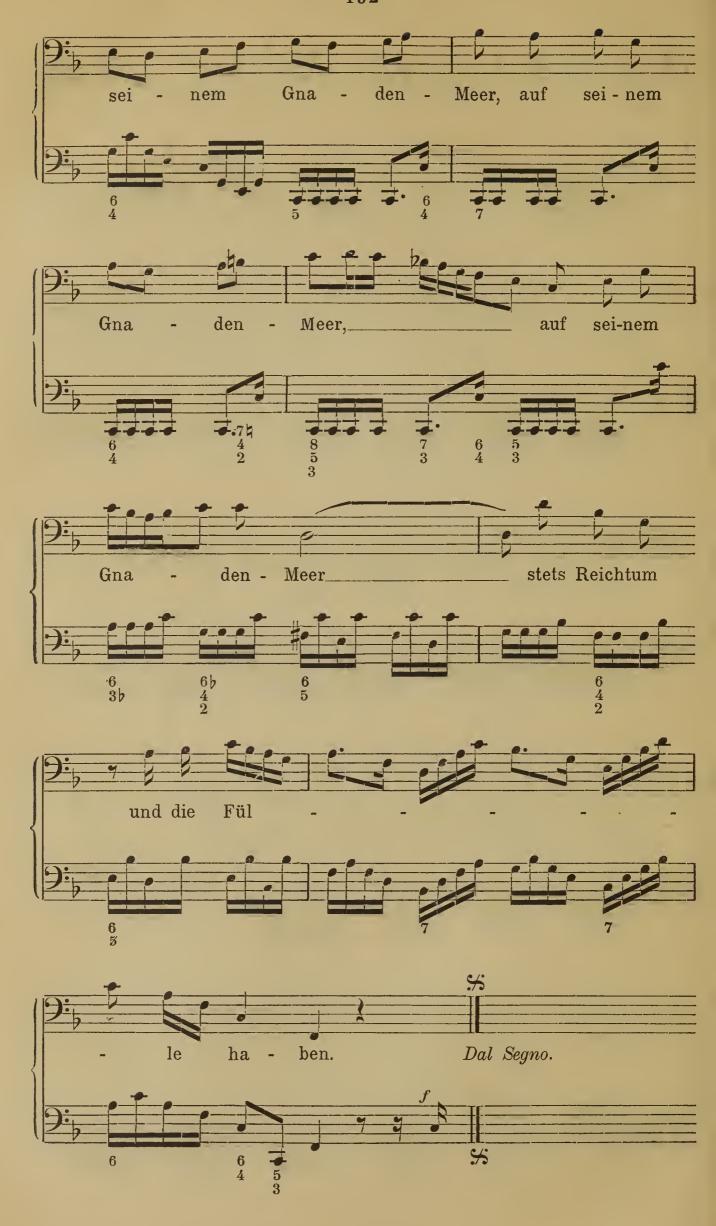


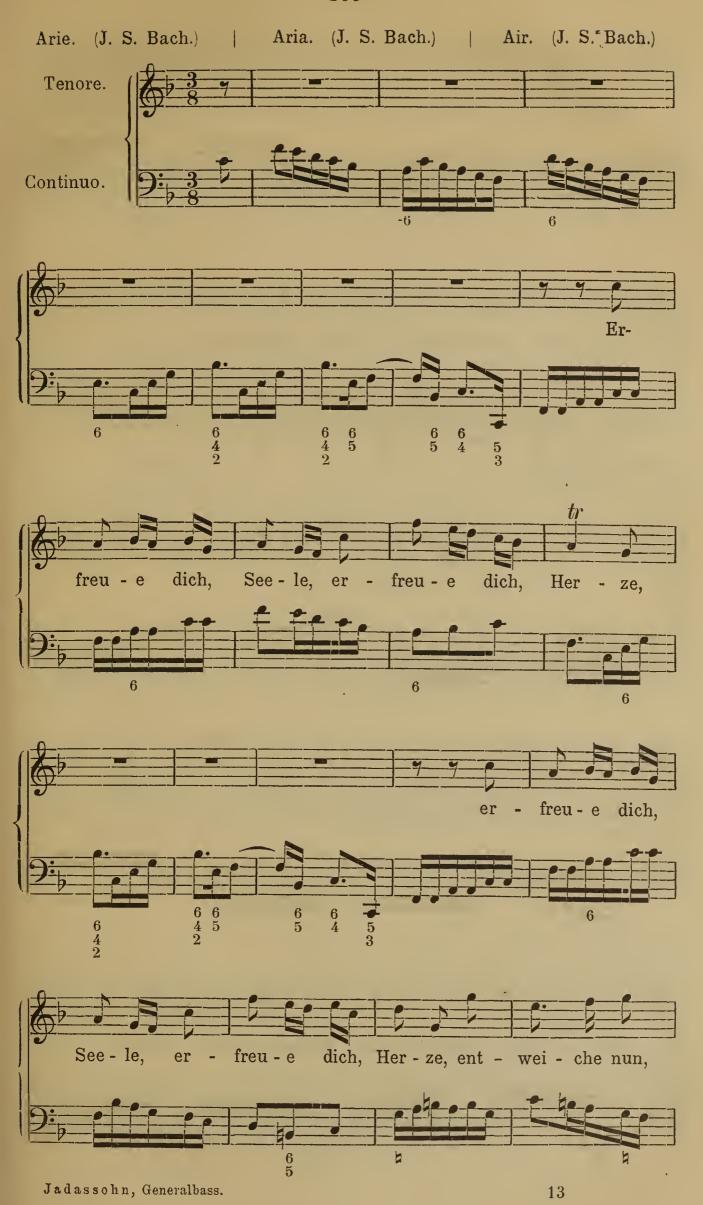


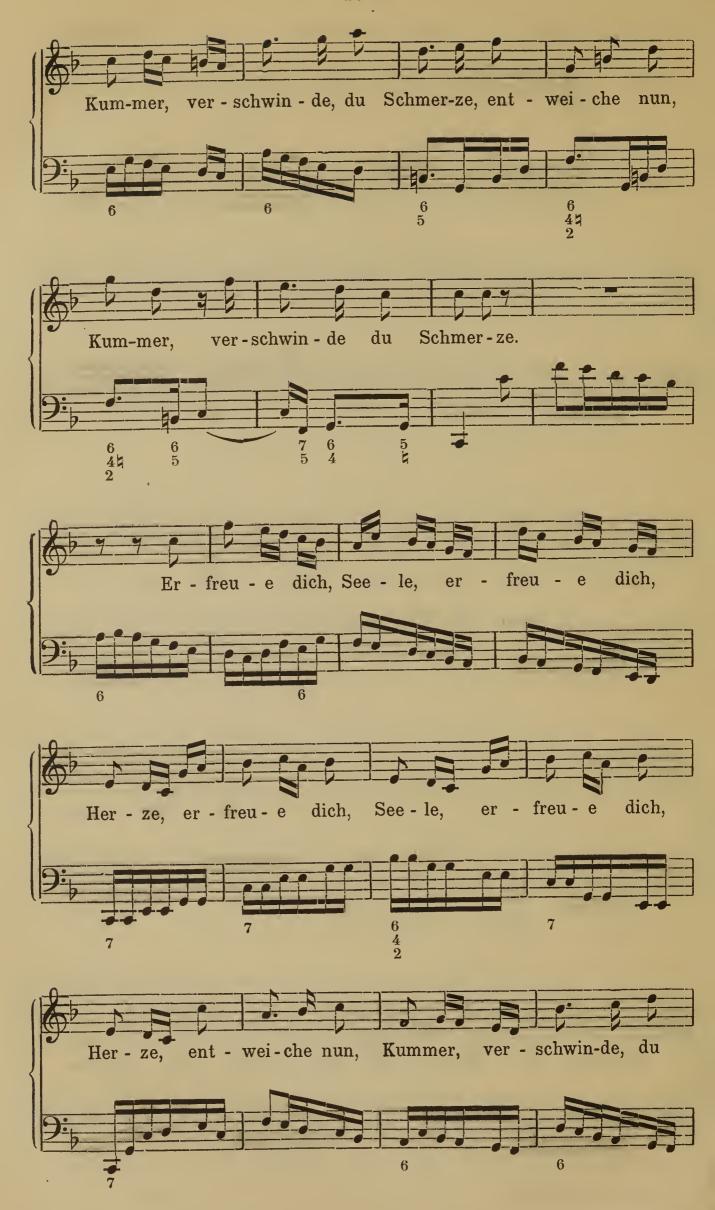


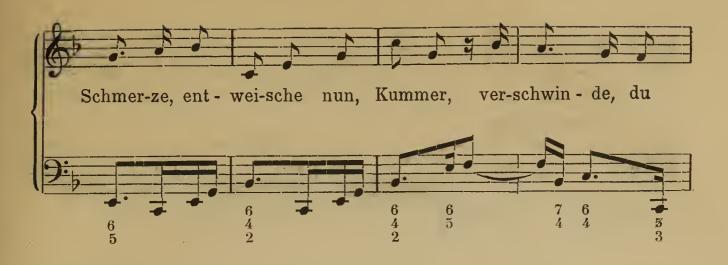




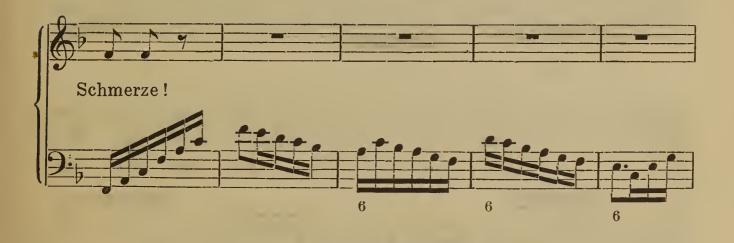


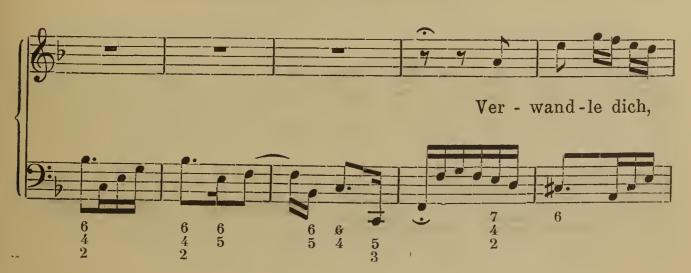


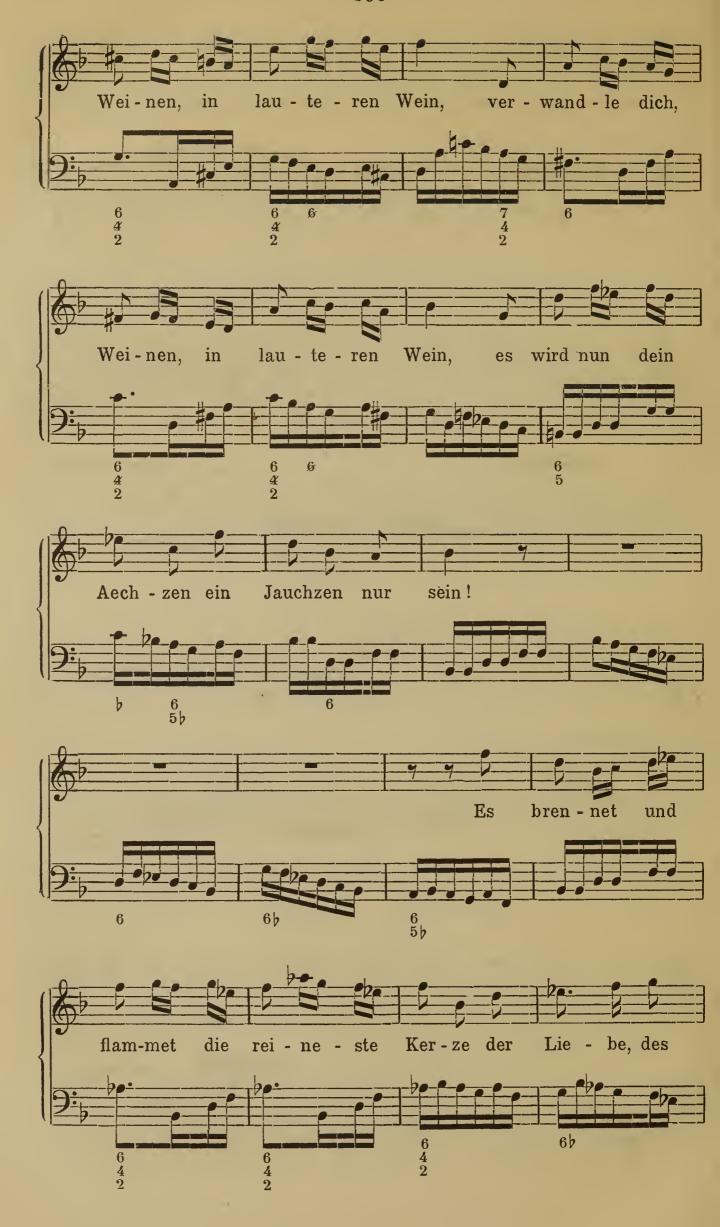


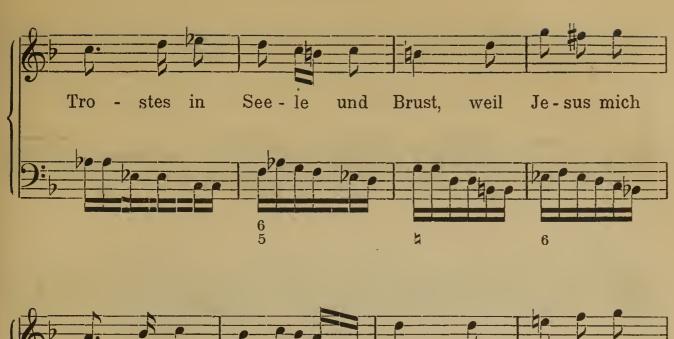








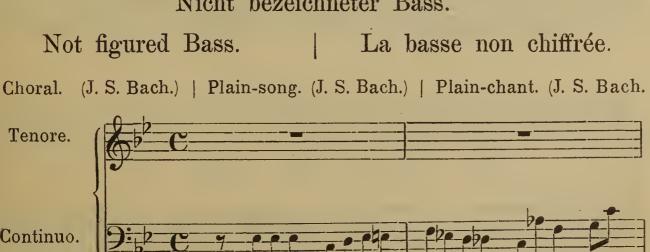


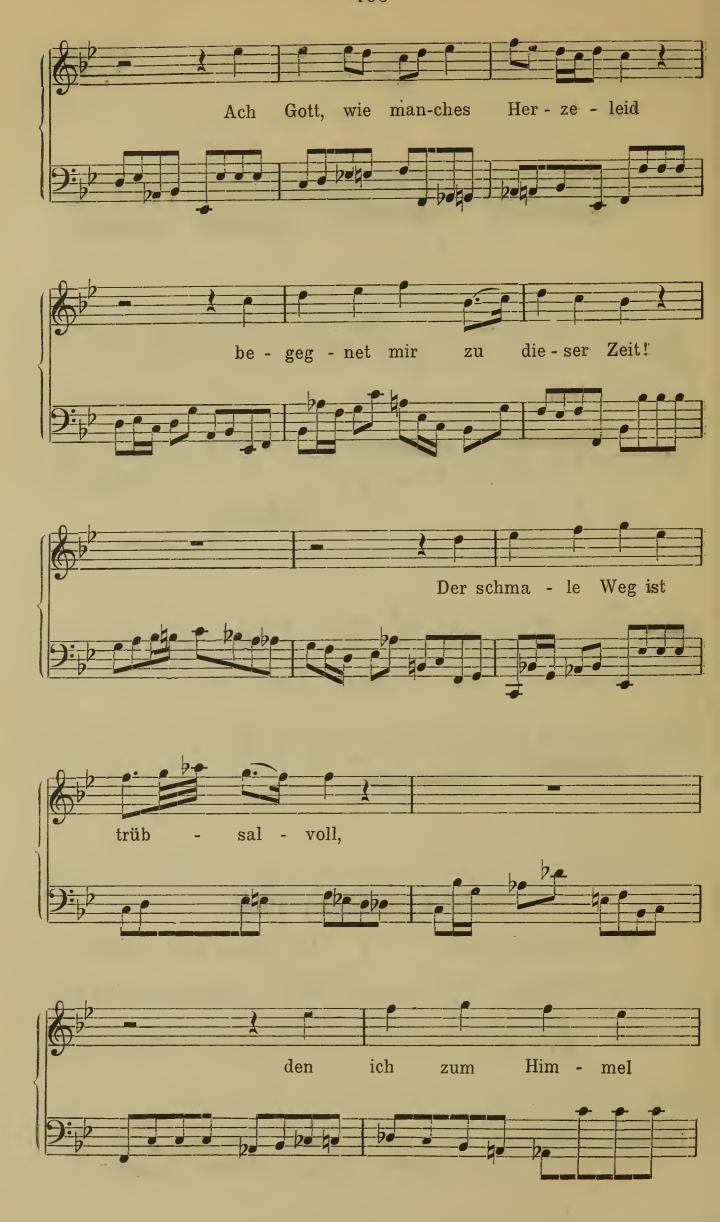


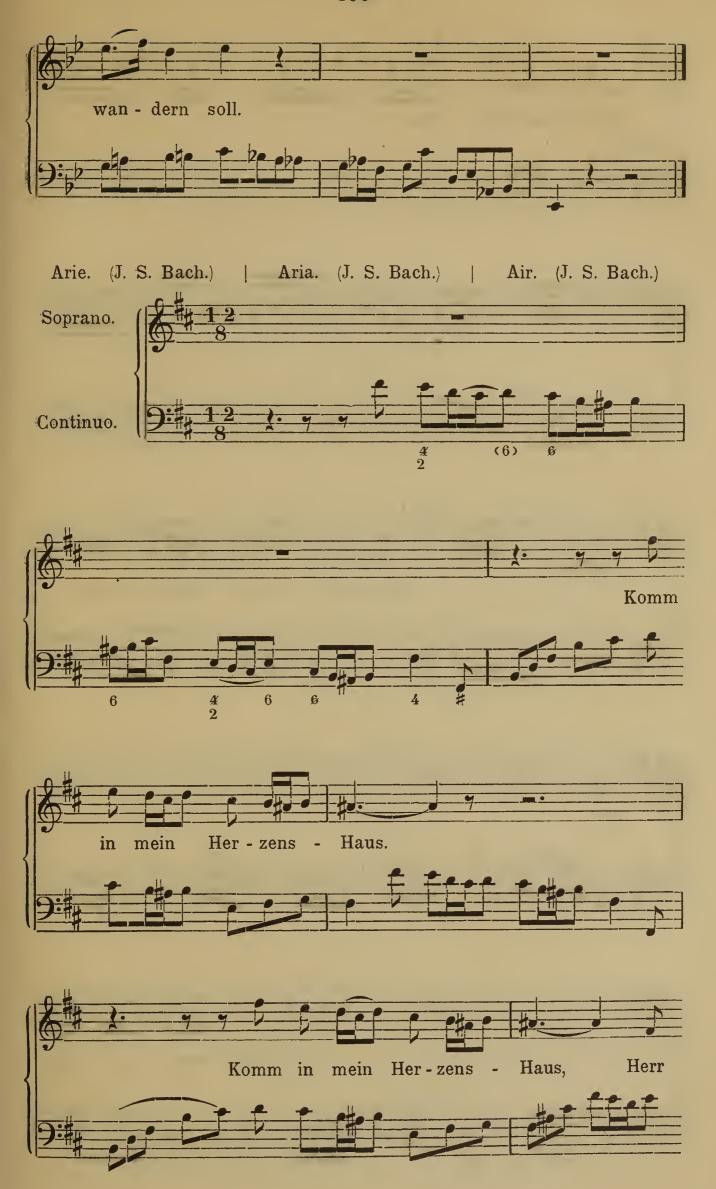


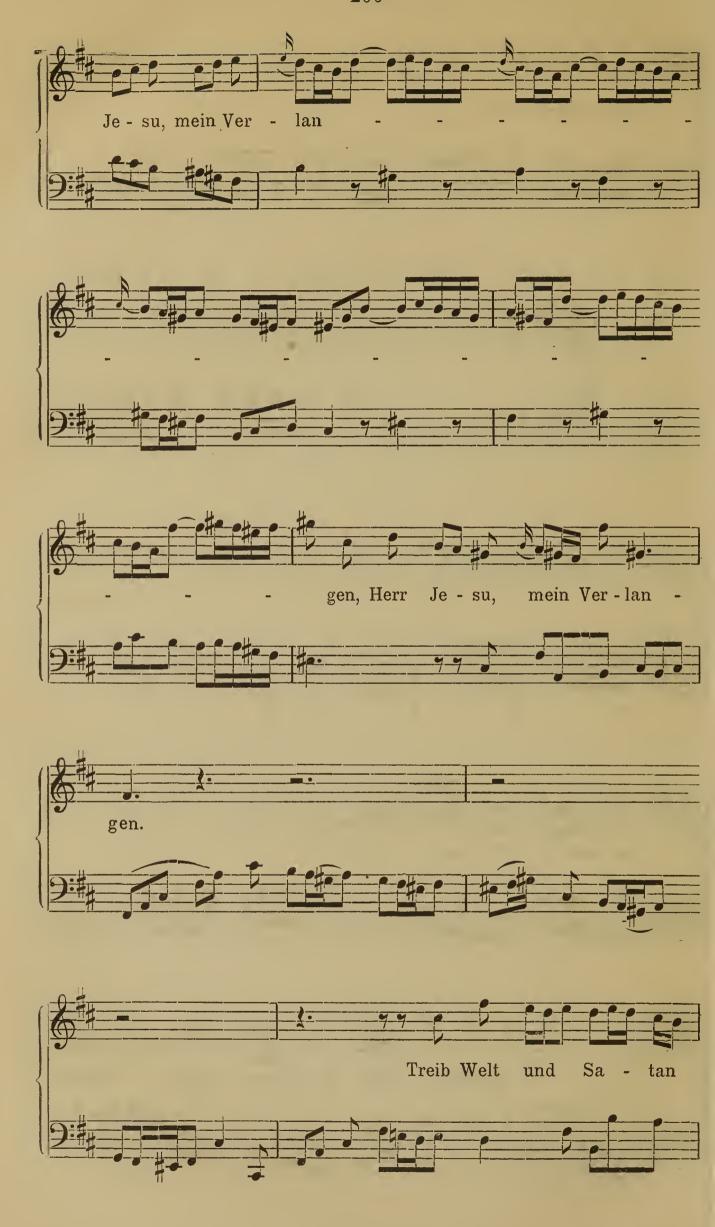


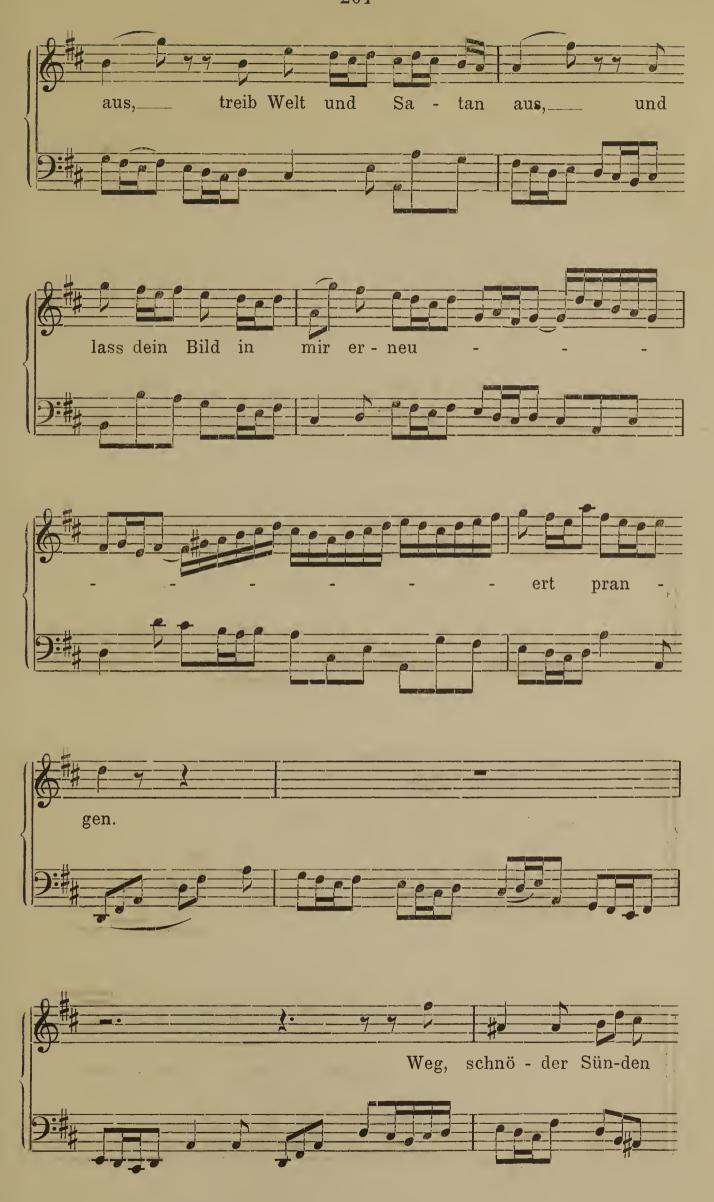
Nicht bezeichneter Bass.

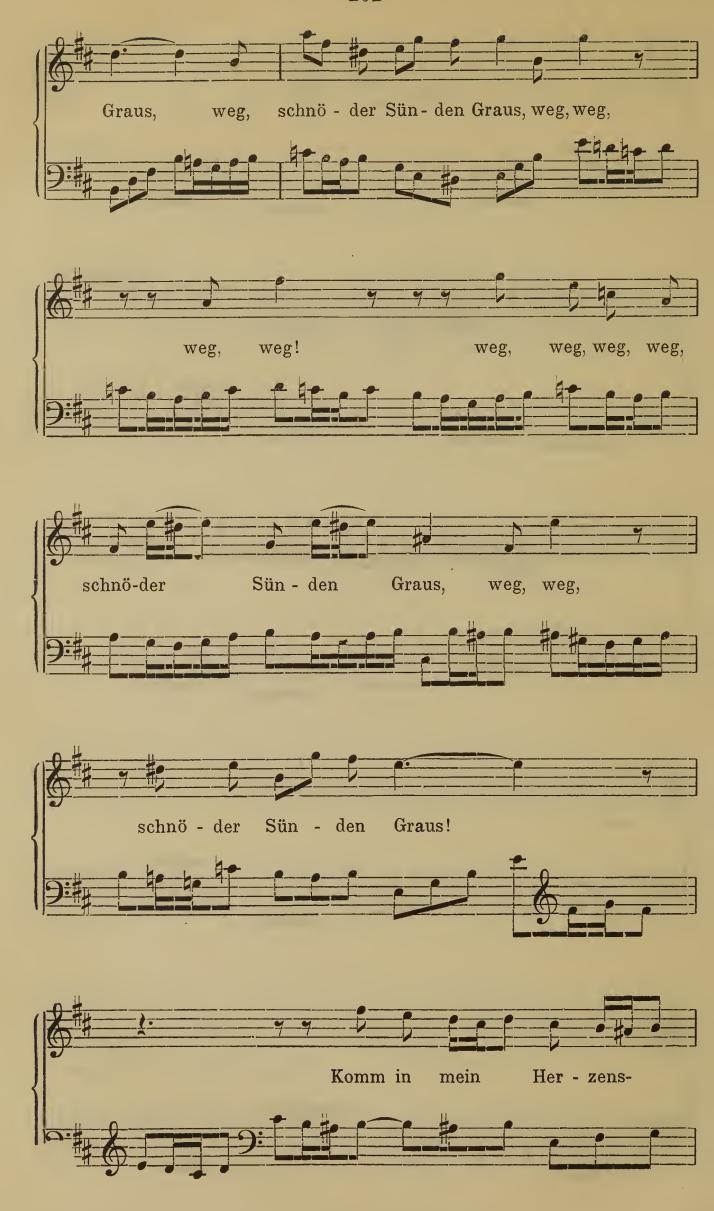


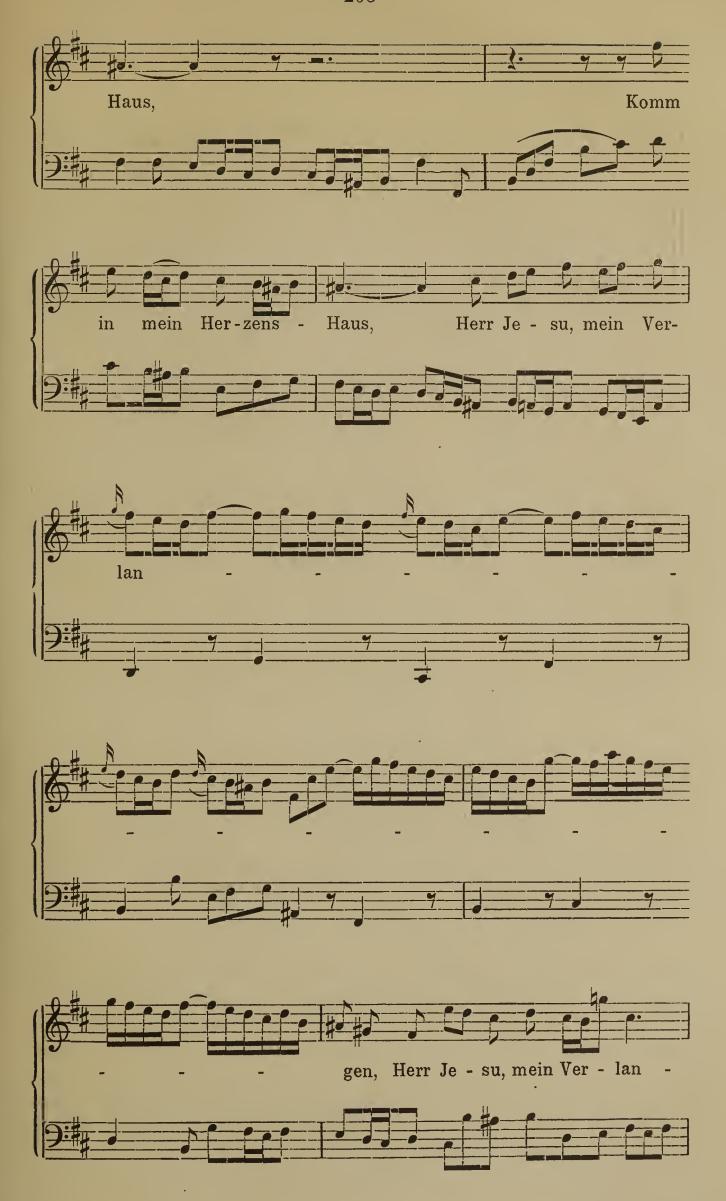














Es sei mir gestattet zum Schlusse eine Äusserung des bekannten Musikschriftstellers Lorenz Christoph Mitzler (1711 bis 1788) über die Art, in welcher Bach Generalbassstimmen ausführte hier anzuführen:

Wer das Delicate im Generalbass, und was gut accompagnieren heisst, recht vernehmen will, darf sich nur bemühen, Herrn Kapellmeister Bach zu hören, welcher einen jeden Generalbass zu einem Solo so accompagniert, dass man denket, es sei ein Konzert, und wäre die Melodie, so er mit der rechten Hand machet, schon vorher so gesetzt worden.

In conclusion allow me to quote a passage from the well-known musical author, Lorenz Christopher Mitzler, (1711—1788) concerning the manner in which Bach was accustomed to elaborate a figured bass:

If anyone would realize fully the amount of delicate ingenuity which may be bestowed on the interpretation of a "General Bass" by a skilful accompanist, let him endeavour (at all costs) to hear Herr Capellmeister Bach who can, from the figured bass, develop such a perfect accompaniment to a solo, and also at the same time, with the right hand extemporising such a melody, that the listener imagines it to be a concerto, previously arranged and composed.

En terminant, permettez-moi de reproduire ce que disait Lorenz Christophe Mitzler (1711—1788), auteur et critique bien connu, sur la façon dont Bach jouait des basses chiffrées.

«Celui qui veut entendre vraiment bien accompagner et qui veut admirer le fini de l'accompagnement construit au-dessus de la basse, qu'il se donne la peine d'entendre le chef d'orchestre Bach qui accompagne un solo de telle façon qu'on s'imagine, que c'était un concerto et que la mélodie faite pour la main droite avait été composée auparavant. «

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